Mediterranean Marine Science

Vol 12, No 1 (2011)

First record of the Spiny blaasop *Tylerius spinosissimus* (Regan, 1908) (Tetraodontidae) from the Turkish coasts

C. TURAN, D. YAGLIOGLU

doi: [10.12681/mms.63](https://doi.org/10.12681/mms.63)

To cite this article:

TURAN, C., & YAGLIOGLU, D. (2011). First record of the Spiny blaasop *Tylerius spinosissimus* (Regan, 1908) (Tetraodontidae) from the Turkish coasts. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 12(1), 247-256.
<https://doi.org/10.12681/mms.63>

First record of the Spiny blaasop *Tylerius spinosissimus* (Regan, 1908) (Tetraodontidae) from the Turkish coasts

C. TURAN and D. YAGLIOGLU

Fisheries Genetics Laboratory, Faculty of Fisheries, Mustafa Kemal University, 31220 Iskenderun, Hatay, Turkey

Corresponding author: cturan@ymail.com

Received: 02 December 2010; Accepted: 22 February 2011; Published on line: 4 April 2011

Abstract

The non-indigenous tetraodontid of Indo-Pacific origin *Tylerius spinosissimus* is recorded for the first time in Turkish waters and for the third time in the Mediterranean Sea. This record increases to 53 the number of Indo-Pacific alien fish species present along the coasts of Turkey.

Keywords: *Tylerius spinosissimus*; Spiny blaasop; Eastern Mediterranean; Turkey.

A large number of non-indigenous fish species of Red Sea and Indo-Pacific origin occurs today in the Mediterranean Sea, of which at least 77 species have been introduced via the Suez Canal, (GOREN *et al.*, 2009, 2010; GOLANI, 2010; GOLANI *et al.*, 2010; BARICHE, 2010 a, b; ZENETOS *et al.*, 2010).

To date, 52 alien fish species, originally from the Red Sea and the Indo-Pacific Ocean, have been reported in Turkish waters (BILECENOGLU *et al.*, 2009; BILECENOGLU 2010), including the recent finding of *Apogon fasciatus* (White, 1790) (TURAN *et al.*, 2010). The occurrence of a new alien tetraodontid, the spiny blaasop *Tylerius spinosissimus* (Regan, 1908) from the waters of Turkey in the North-

eastern Mediterranean Sea is reported here. At present, Turkish marine fauna counts six alien species of the family Tetraodontidae: *Lagocephalus spadiceus*, *L. suezensis*, *L. sceleratus*, *Sphoeroides pachygaster*, *Torquigener flavimaculosus* and *Tylerius spinosissimus* (TURAN *et al.*, 2007 a, b; CORSINI-FOKA *et al.*, 2010). Of the alien tetraodontid species of the Turkish marine fauna (TURAN *et al.*, 2007 b) only *S. pachygaster* is of tropical Atlantic origin.

One small specimen of *Tylerius spinosissimus* (19.2 mm in standard length) was collected by purse seine in Iskenderun Bay (36° 20' 737" N - 35° 47' 463" E) on November 30, 2010, at about 52 m of depth (Fig. 1). The sample was preserved in 4% formaldehyde solution and deposited at the Muse-

Fig. 1: Sampling location (●) of *Tylerius spinosissimus*.

um of the Faculty of Fisheries, Mustafa Kemal University, Iskenderun-Hatay (collection number: MSM-PIS/2010-9).

The specimen was identified as *Tylerius spinosissimus* with the diagnostic characteristics described by SMITH & HEEMSTRA (1986) and MATSUURA (2001). In the body of *T. spinosissimus* there are short thorns on the belly, the rear margin of the caudal fin is black, the back is dark brown, the belly whitish and fins are transparent. Measurements were carried out to the nearest 0.1 mm by a caliper, and meristic counts were made under the reflected

light of a stereomicroscope. Meristic character counts along with morphometric measurements in comparison with other publications (CORSINI *et al.*, 2005; CORSINI-FOKA *et al.*, 2010) are given in Table 1.

According to SMITH & HEEMSTRA (1986), MATSUURA & TYLER (1997) and FROESE & PAULY (2010), the spiny blaasop is a tropical bathydemersal species present in the Southeast Atlantic and widely distributed in the Indo-West Pacific Ocean, from South and East Africa and Mozambique to North-western Australia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and South China.

Fig. 2: *Tylerius spinosissimus* (Regan, 1908) from Iskenderun Bay, Turkey.

The first and second record of *Tylerius spinosissimus* in the Mediterranean Sea were both described from the bay of Trianda, north-western coast of Rhodes Island, south-eastern Aegean Sea, the first based on a specimen collected in February 2004 by trawl-net at a depth of 90 m (CORSINI *et al.*, 2005), the second based on a specimen caught in January 2009 by boat seine at 50-90 m of depth (CORSINI-FOKA *et al.*, 2010). The record of *Tylerius spinosissimus* from Israel (GOLANI *et al.*, 2011), constitutes a considerable extension of its distribution range in the Mediterranean.

It is to be emphasized that the spiny blaasop has never been recorded in the Red Sea (ANONYMOUS, 2010). As already mentioned above, the first two records of the species in the Mediterranean were located at Rhodes Island, very far from the Suez

Canal. The finding of the species from Iskenderun Bay, North-eastern Mediterranean Sea, represents the third record from the Mediterranean basin and shows that *T. spinosissimus* has extended its range easterly and counterclockwise along the Levantine coasts, suggesting also a probable establishment of its population in the area (GOLANI *et al.*, 2010). Although it is not to be ruled out that the occurrence of *Tylerius spinosissimus* could be undetected in other regions of the Levantine basin due to its very small size, its introduction into the Mediterranean through Lessepsian migration is under discussion (CORSINI-FOKA & ECONOMIDIS, 2007), mainly because of the evident discontinuity of its distribution. Therefore, the introduction of *T. spinosissimus* in the Mediterranean Sea may be due to ship-mediated transport (CORSINI-FOKA *et al.*, 2010; ANONYMOUS, 2010). According to VELLA &

Table 1
Meristic and morphometric characters for the three specimens of *Tylerius spinosissimus* from the Mediterranean Sea.

	Characters	Our Data	CORSINI et al. (2005)	CORSINI - FOKA et al. (2010)
Meristic characters	Dorsal fin rays	8	8	8
	Anal fin rays	6	6	6
	Caudal fin rays	10	10	10
	Pectoral fin rays	15	14	15
Morphometric measurements (mm)	Total length	24.4	-	30.3
	Standard length	19.2	17.4	23.3
	Maximum body depth	9.3	-	10.1
	Caudal peduncle least depth	1.6	-	1.5
	Caudal peduncle length	3.6	-	4.4
	Head length	9.2	-	10.1
	Eye diameter	2.8	-	3.1
	Preorbital distance	2.2	-	2.8
	Postorbital distance	4.8	-	4.2
	Interorbital distance	3.3	-	3.8
	Dorsal fin length	3.5	-	4.8
	Anal fin length	2.2	-	2.4
	Pectoral fin length	3.6	-	4.3
	Predorsal length	14.8	-	16.9
	Preanal length	14.5	-	17.3
	Total length / Standard length	1.3	1.4	1.3
	Standard length / Head length	2.1	2.0	2.3
	Standard length / Predorsal length	1,3	1.2	1.4
	Standard length / Preanal length	1,3	1.2	1.4
	Head length / Caudal peduncle least depth	5.8	5.5	6.7
	Head length / Caudal peduncle length	2.6	2.7	2.3
	Head length / Eye diameter	3.3	-	3.3
	Head length / Preorbital distance	4.2	3.8	3.6
	Head length / Postorbital distance	1.9	2.6	2.4

DEIDUN (2008), *Selene dorsalis* might have come to the Mediterranean Sea by ship ballast water. YILMAZ *et al.* (2004) and GOREN & GALIL (2008) discussed the route of invasion for another small fish species and concluded that the Antenna codlet, *Bregmaceros atlanticus*, arrived in the Mediterranean with discharged ballast water.

Acknowledgements

The authors thank the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, General Directorate of Agricultural Research (TAGEM-09/AR-GE/11) coordinated by Cemal Turan, for financial support of this study, and also thank Captain Nevzat Yesil.

References

- BARICHE, M., 2010a. *Champsodon vorax* (Teleostei: Champsodontidae) a new alien fish in the Mediterranean. *Aqua Journal of Ichthyology*, 16 (4): 197-200.
- BARICHE, M., 2010b. First record of the angelfish *Pomacanthus maculosus* (Teleostei: Pomacanthidae) in the Mediterranean. *Aqua Journal of Ichthyology*, 16 (1): 31-33.
- BILECENOGLU, M., 2010. Alien marine fish of Turkey – an updated review. p.189-217. In: *Fish invasions of the Mediterranean – change and renewal*, D. Golani & B. Appelbaum-Golani (Eds). Sofia-Moscow, Pensoft Publishers.
- BILECENOGLU, M., KAYA, M. & ERYIGIT, A., 2009. New data on the occurrence of two alien fishes, *Pisodonophis semicinctus* and *Pomadasys stridens*, from the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 10 (2): 151-155.
- CORSINI-FOKA, M. & ECONOMIDIS P.S., 2007. Allochthonous and vagrant ichthyofauna in Hellenic marine and estuarine waters. *Mediterranean Marine Science* 8 (1): 67-89.
- CORSINI-FOKA, M., MARGIES, P., KONDILATOS, G. & ECONOMIDIS, P.S., 2010. Tetraodontid colonizers in the Aegean Sea; Second record of the spiny blaasop, *Tylerius spinosissimus* (Actinopterygii: Tetraodontiformes: Tetraodontidae). *Acta Ichthyologica & Piscatoria*, 40 (1): 71-74.
- CORSINI, M., MARGIES, P., KONDILATOS, G. & ECONOMIDIS, P.S., 2005. Lessepsian migration in Aegean Sea: *Tylerius spinosissimus* (Pisces, Tetraodontidae) new for the Mediterranean, and six more fish records from Rhodes. *Cybiu*, 29 (4): 347-354.
- FROESE, R. & PAULY, D., 2010. Fish Base. World Wide Web electronic publication. version (12/2010) www.fishbase.org.
- GOLANI, D., 2010. Colonization of the Mediterranean by Red Sea fishes via the Suez Canal-Lessepsian migration. p.145-188. In: *Fish invasions of the Mediterranean Sea: change and renewal*, D. Golani & B. Appelbaum-Golani (Eds). Sofia-Moscow, Pensoft Publishers.
- GOLANI, D., ORSI-RELINI, L., MASSUTI, F. & QUIGNARD, J.P., 2010. *CIESM Atlas of Exotic Species in the Mediterranean*. [retrieved on 2010] <http://www.ciesm.org/atlas/Tylerius spinosissimus.php>
- GOLANI, D., SALAMEH, P. & SONIN, O., 2010. First record of the Emperor Angelfish, *Pomacanthus imperator* (Teleostei: Pomacanthidae) and the second record of the Spotbase Burfish *Cylichthys spilostylus* (Teleostei: Diodontidae) in the Mediterranean. *Aquatic Invasions*, 5 (1): S41-S43.
- GOLANI, D., SONIN, O. & EDELIST, D., 2011. Second records of the Lessepsian fish migrants *Priacanthus sagittarius* and *Platax teira* in the Mediterranean and distribution extension of *Tylerius spinosissimus*. *Aquatic Invasions*, 6 (Suppl. 1): S7-S11.
- GOREN, M. & GALIL, B.S., 2008. Additional records of *Bregmaceros atlanticus* in the eastern Mediterranean - an invasion through the Suez Canal or in ballast water? *Marine Biodiversity Records*, 1 (e42): 1-3. (Published online)
- GOREN, M., GAYER, K. & LAZARUS, N., 2009. First record of the Far East chameleon goby *Tridentiger trigono-*

- cephalus* (Gill, 1859) in the Mediterranean Sea. *Aquatic Invasions*, 4 (2): 413-415.
- GOREN, M., STERN, N., GALIL, B.S. & DIAMANT., A., 2010. First record of the Indo-Pacific Arrow bulleye *Priacanthus sagittarius* Starnes, 1988 in the Mediterranean Sea *Aquatic Invasions*, 5 (Suppl.1): S45-S47.
- MATSUURA, K. 2001. Tetraodontidae. Puffers. p. 3954-3957. In: *FAO species identification guide for fishery purposes. The living marine resources of the Western Central Pacific. Vol. 6. Bony fishes part 4 (Labridae to Latimeriidae), estuarine crocodiles*. Carpenter K.E., Niem V (Eds). FAO, Rome.
- MATSUURA, K. & TYLER J.C., 1997. Tetraodontiform fishes, mostly from deep waters, of New Caledonia. p.173-208. In: *Résultats des Campagnes MUSORSTOM*, vol. 17. B. Séret (Ed). *Memoires du Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Série A) Zoologie*, 174
- SMITH, M.M. & HEEMSTRA P.C., 1986. Tetraodontidae. p.894-903. In: *Smiths' sea fishes*. M.M. Smith & P.C. Heemstra (Eds). Springer-Verlag, Berlin.
- TURAN, C., ERGUDEN, D., GURLEK, M., YAGLIOGLU, D. & KESKIN, C., 2007a. Lessepsian Fishes of Turkey. p.485-538. In: *Atlas and Systematics of Marine Bony Fishes of Turkey*. C. Turan (Ed). Nobel Publishing House. Adana. Turkey.
- TURAN, C., OZTURK, B., ERGUDEN, D., GURLEK, M., YAGLIOGLU, D. & UYGUR N., 2007b. Atlas of Bony Fishes of Turkey. p.80-485. In: *Atlas and Systematics of Marine Bony Fishes of Turkey*. C. Turan (Ed). Nobel Publishing House. Adana. Turkey.
- TURAN, C., YAGLIOGLU, D., ERGUDEN, D., GURLEK, M. & SONMEZ, B., 2010. First record of the broad-banded cardinal fish *Apogon fasciatus* (White, 1790) from Turkey. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 11 (2): 369-372.
- VELLA, P. & DEIDUN A., 2008. First record of *Selene dorsalis* (Osteichthyes: Carangidae) in the Mediterranean Sea, from coastal waters off the Maltese Islands. *JMBA2 Biodiversity Records*, 1-3. (Published online)
- YILMAZ, R., HOSSUCU, B. & BILECENOGLU, M., 2004. First record of the Antenna Codlet, *Bregmaceros atlanticus* Goode & Bean, 1886 (Osteichthyes: Bregmacerotiidae), from the eastern Mediterranean Sea. *Zoology in the Middle East*, 31: 111-112.
- ZENETOS, A., GOFAS, S., VERLAQUE, M., ÇINAR, M.E., GARCÍA RASO, E. *et al.*, 2010. Alien species in the Mediterranean Sea by 2010. A contribution to the application of European Union's Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Part I. Spatial distribution. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 11 (2): 381-493.