

Mediterranean Marine Science

Vol 10, No 1 (2009)



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doi: [10.12681/mms.125](https://doi.org/10.12681/mms.125)

To cite this article:

OZCAN, T., IRMAK, E., ATES, A., & KATAGAN, T. (2009). First record of the red shrimp, *Aristeus antennatus* (Risso, 1816) (Decapoda: Aristeidae) from the Aegean Sea coast of Turkey. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 10(1), 121–124. <https://doi.org/10.12681/mms.125>

First record of the red shrimp, *Aristeus antennatus* (Risso, 1816) (Decapoda: Aristeidae) from the Aegean Sea coast of Turkey

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Abstract

*A female specimen of the deep-water red shrimp, *Aristeus antennatus* (Risso, 1816) was caught at depths of between 550 m and 670 m during 2005 by trawling off the Marmaris coast. *A. antennatus* is a species known to inhabit only the Levantine Sea coast of Turkey. This paper is on the first record of the species along the southern Aegean Sea coast of Turkey*

Keywords: *Aristeus antennatus*; Red shrimp Aristeidae; Southeastern Aegean Sea; Turkey.

The species of the family Aristeidae, of which at least two, *Aristeus antennatus* (Risso, 1816) and *Aristeomorpha foliacea* (Risso, 1827) (D'UDEKEM D'ACUZ, 1999), are present in the Mediterranean, mostly inhabit deep waters. *A. antennatus* seems to be less common in the eastern Mediterranean, in relation to *Aristaeomorpha foliacea*, due to its different oceanographic demands (POLITOU *et al.*, 2004). The red shrimp, *A. antennatus* occurs on the upper and middle slopes of the western Mediterranean and adjacent areas (CARBONELL *et al.*, 1999). It is distrib-

uted in the Mediterranean Sea (excluding the north-central Adriatic Sea and the Black Sea), the Atlantic from the Iberian Peninsula to Angola, and the Indian Ocean (SARDÀ *et al.*, 2003). This species has been reported in the Greek part of the Ionian Sea and the Aegean Sea (KOUKOURAS & KATTOULAS, 1974; THESSALOU-LEGAKI, 1994), Israel coast (GALIL, 2004), the southern Cyprus coast (LEWINSHON & HOLTHUIS, 1986), and the Mediterranean shores of Turkey (KOCATAŞ & KATAĞAN, 2003; KOCATAŞ *et al.*, 2008).

According to THESSALOU-LEGAKI (1994), neither red shrimp (*A. antennatus* and *Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) occurred off the Turkish Aegean Sea coast of the Eastern Mediterranean.

An adult female specimen of *A. antennatus* was captured off the Marmaris coast, the Aegean Sea coast of Turkey (36°36'76"N- 28°19'48"E) (Fig. 1) on 10th April 2005, at a depth of 550-670 m. A commercial trawler, the 'Isa Reis', equipped with a trawl net of 22 mm codend mesh size, was used. The specimen was identified based on the work by ZARIQUIEY ÁLVAREZ (1968) and FALCIAI & MINERVINI (1996). The specimen was deposited at the Fisheries Faculty of the Mustafa Kemal University, Turkey (in the collection of Dr. T. Özcan) (Fig. 2).

A. antennatus stock has a commercial

importance on the Levantine Sea coast of Turkey (KOCATAŞ & KATAĞAN, 2003). This species is commonly caught on muddy and sandy bottoms and its bathymetric distribution extends from 80 m to more than 3300 m throughout the whole Mediterranean basin (SARDA *et al.*, 2004). KAPIRIS *et al.* (2000) stated that this species could be an important fishing resource in the Greek Ionian Sea in future, as a result of their studies of the biology and ecology of the species. This is the first report of this species from the Turkish Aegean Sea; it has not been recorded previously (KOCATAŞ & KATAĞAN, 2003; KOCATAŞ *et al.*, 2008). It is most probable that *A. antennatus* has been present in other parts of the Turkish Aegean Sea coast, but it has been unreported or overlooked previously.

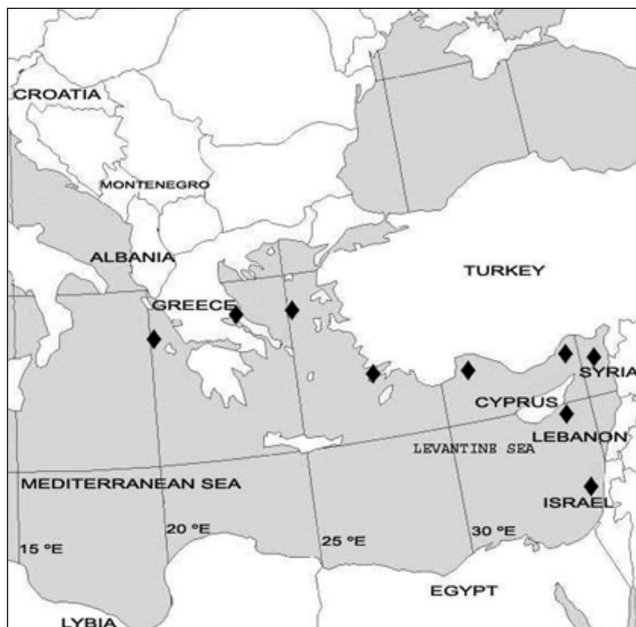


Fig. 1: Map showing records of *Aristeus antennatus* (Risso, 1816) in the eastern Mediterranean, including the latest report from the Turkish Aegean Sea coast.



Fig. 2: Lateral view of *Aristeus antennatus* (Risso, 1816) (♀, CL= 53 mm) collected off the Marmaris coast (southern Aegean Sea) (photo by Tahir Özcan).

Acknowledgements

We thank to the crew of the vessel 'İsa Reis' for their help in collecting and sorting the benthic material.

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Submitted: December 2008

Accepted: March 2009

Published on line: June 2009