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**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.

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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°03'76"N- 28°01'48"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.

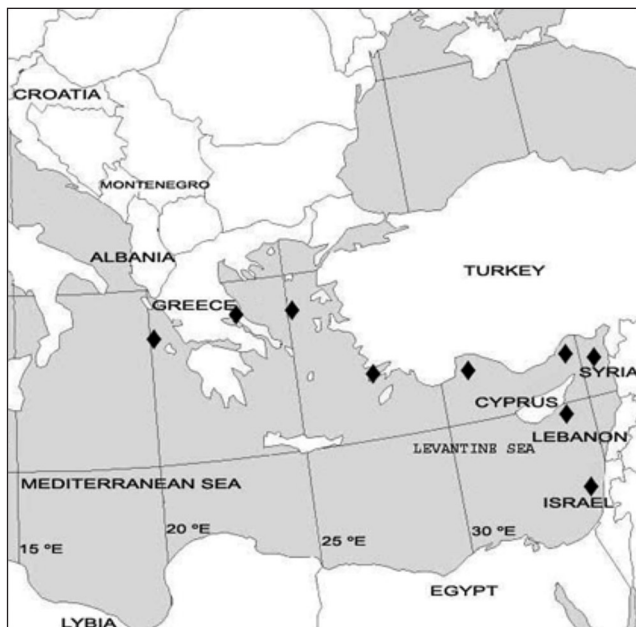


Fig. 1: Map showing records of *Aristeus antennatus* (Risso, 1816) in the eastern Mediterranean, including the latest report from the Turkish Aegean Sea coast.



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

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