Mediterranean Marine Science
Indexed in WoS (Web of Science, ISI Thomson) and SCOPUS
The journal is available on line at http://www.medit-mar-sc.net
DOI: http://doi.org/10.12681/mms.27137

## The last fortress fell: mass mortality of *Pinna nobilis* in the Sea of Marmara

## Melih Ertan ÇINAR<sup>1</sup>, Murat BİLECENOĞLU<sup>2</sup>, Mehmet BAKI YOKEŞ<sup>3</sup> and Harun GÜÇLÜSOY<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ege University, Faculty of Fisheries, Department of Hydrobiology, 35100, Bornova, İzmir, Turkey
 <sup>2</sup>Aydın Adnan Menderes University, Science and Art Faculty, Department of Biology, Aydın, Turkey
 <sup>3</sup>AMBRD Doğa Bilimleri, Hanımefendi Sokak 160/6 34384 Şişli, İstanbul, Turkey
 <sup>4</sup>Dokuz Eylül University, Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology, 35330, İnciraltı, İzmir, Turkey

Corresponding author: melih.cinar@ege.edu.tr

Contributing Editor: Stelios KATSANEVAKIS

Received: 26 May 2021; Accepted: 20 September 2021; Published online: 14 October 2021

#### **Abstract**

A spring 2021 cruise to the south Marmara Islands revealed a mass mortality event of *Pinna nobilis*, which had been reported to be healthy just seven months ago. The cause of death might be associated with an epidemic disease or a catastrophic mucilage event seen after November 2020 in the Sea of Marmara. A total of 191 *Pinna nobilis* individuals were found at seven stations, of which 88% were dead. The population density (including dead and alive individuals) of *P. nobilis* was found to be between 0.3 ind.100 m<sup>-2</sup> and 12 ind.100 m<sup>-2</sup> in the area. A total of three live and four dead juvenile individuals were observed in the area, indicating low recent recruitment. The largest number of dead *Pinna nobilis* individuals was encountered in shallow waters (0-4 m depth). A total of 34 species, belonging to six taxonomic groups (Sipuncula, Oligochaeta, Polychaeta, Crustacea, Mollusca and Pisces), were found within the dead shells of four *P. nobilis* individuals. The mass mortality of *Pinna nobilis* in the Sea of Marmara, the last remaining disease-free sea, indicates the necessity of establishing and implementing emergency action plans for this species, including ex-situ conservation.

Keywords: Mass mortality; pandemic; pathogen; Sea of Marmara; Turkey.

# Introduction

The pen shell Pinna nobilis, endemic to the Mediterranean Sea, has been suffering from a highly infective and lethal water-borne disease, caused primarily by the sporozoan parasite Haplosporidium pinnae and several pathogenic bacteria, since late 2016 (Vázquez-Luis et al., 2017; Catanese et al., 2018; Cabanellas-Reboredo et al., 2019; Katsanevakis et al., 2019; Panarese et al., 2019; Carella et al., 2020; Scarpa et al., 2020). The majority (>90%) of Mediterranean populations of *P. nobilis* have been affected by the disease, with mass mortality events reported in both the western and eastern parts of the Mediterranean Sea (Vázquez-Luis et al., 2017; Katsanevakis et al., 2019; 2021; Kersting et al., 2019; Öndes et al., 2020; Čižmek et al., 2020). This disease has devastated the *P. nobilis* populations in the region, leading IUCN to categorize it as a critically endangered species (Kersting et al., 2019). Recently, mass mortality of this species has been observed in the Çanakkale Strait (Özalp & Kersting, 2020; Acarli et al., 2021; Künili et al., 2021), the south gate of the Sea of Marmara, where several beds of healthy P. nobilis individuals had been reported in September 2020 (Çinar *et al.*, 2021). It has previously been questioned whether the exceptionally healthy *P. nobilis* beds of the Sea of Marmara were due to some ecological conditions of the sea or if mass mortality was only a matter of time.

Unlike the Mediterranean Sea, the Sea of Marmara contains two stratified water bodies; the upper layer consists of Black Sea-originated water that is less saline (from north to south 18-25PSU) and the lower layer consists of Mediterranean-originated water that is high saline (almost homogenous across the basin 36-38 PSU) (Özsoy & Altıok, 2016). The disease outburst was proved to be very closely correlated to temperatures above 13.5 °C and a salinity range between 36.5 and 39.7 PSU (Cabanellas-Reboredo et al., 2019; García-March et al., 2020). Based on these data, it was thought that the brackish water character of the upper layer of the Sea of Marmara, where P. nobilis beds occur, might form an ecological barrier to the spread of the disease and the Sea of Marmara could thereby act as a reservoir area for the species (Çinar *et al.*, 2021).

During the spring sampling campaign of the MarIAS project (Addressing Invasive Alien Species Threats at

Key Marine Biodiversity Areas Project), observations were made regarding the status of *Pinna nobilis* populations at 10 monitoring stations in the south Marmara Islands, as the Çanakkale populations of this species were already known to be significantly affected by the epidemic disease (Özalp & Kersting, 2020; Künili *et al.*, 2021).

In the present paper, the mass mortality of this species in the southern part of the Sea of Marmara, particularly the south Marmara Islands, is documented and the other species established inside the shells and decaying tissues are reported.

### **Materials and Methods**

Within the scope of the MarIAS project (www.isti-lacilar.org), a spring sampling campaign was conducted by the Research Vessel *K. Piri Reis* between the dates 02.04.2021 and 06.04.2021 to assess the population structures of alien species (especially *Rapana venosa* and *Asterias rubens*) at 10 monitoring stations in the south Marmara Islands and Kapidağ Peninsula in the Sea of Marmara (Fig. 1). At each station, two 100 m belt transects, perpendicular to the coastline, were set on the seafloor, starting from a 0.5 m depth. Zones, 2 m wide on the right and left sides of the transect (for a total width of 4 m), were observed by two scientific divers each; the total surveyed area of each transect is 400 m<sup>2</sup>. The initial plan

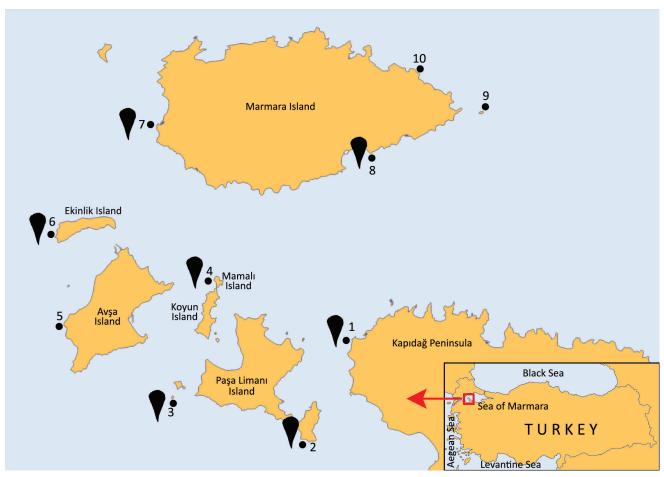
was to place 4 transects at each station and for the left and right zones to be observed by a single researcher. However, due to the intense mucilage in the region in April 2021, the number of transects was reduced to two at each station and two divers were placed at the left and the right sides of each transect to perform a thorough observation.

At seven of the ten stations, *Pinna nobilis* individuals were observed and their status was noted (dead or alive). At station 1, where numerous dead *P. nobilis* individuals were encountered, tissues of four dead individuals were collected in separate nylon bags and fixed with 4% formalin on-board the ship to examine the species established on the inner part of the shells. In the laboratory, the material was first washed with tap water on 0.5 mm mesh, sorted according to taxonomic groups, and then preserved in 70% alcohol. This material was deposited at the museum ESFM (Ege University Su Ürünleri Fakültesi Müzesi).

#### Results

## Mass Mortality of Pinna nobilis

The present study recorded a mass mortality of *P. no-bilis* in the Sea of Marmara. Deaths in the region probably began in the mid- or late autumn of the year 2020, and appear to have continued during the winter months.



*Fig. 1:* Map of the investigated area (south Marmara Islands) with the locations of sampling sites. The shell icon indicates stations where *Pinna nobilis* individuals (live and dead) were found.

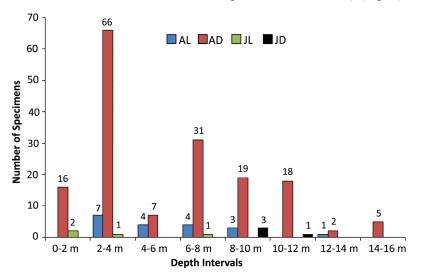
As of April 2021, when the present study was conducted, though most *P. nobilis* individuals had already decomposed into black sediment, the tissue of some dead individuals had not yet fully decomposed. The surface water temperatures were reported to be above 16°C from September 2020, when the last study was carried out in the region (Çinar *et al.*, 2021), to December 2021; the recorded values were September: 25.2 °C, October: 21 °C, November: 18.5 °C and December: 16.2 °C (see https://www.mgm.gov.tr/FILES/resmi-istatistikler/denizSuyu/Marmara-Deniz-Suyu-Sicakligi-Analizi -2020.pdf).

### Pinna nobilis population in the area

A total of 191 *Pinna nobilis* individuals were found along the belt transects at seven of the ten stations. Of

these, 88% were dead; only 19 adults and 4 juveniles (<20 cm) were alive (Table 1). The population density (including dead and alive individuals) of *P. nobilis* at the stations ranged from 0.3 ind.100 m<sup>-2</sup> (station 3) to 12 ind.100 m<sup>-2</sup> (station 1). The population density of live individuals of *P. nobilis* were between 0.25 (at station 3) and 1.25 ind.100 m<sup>-2</sup> (at stations 1 and 2); live individuals were entirely absent at two stations, 4 and 6) (Table 1). The majority of the individuals found at each station were dead, ranging from 0% (only one live individual, station 3) to 100% (stations 4, 6 and 7). Four live and four dead juvenile individuals were observed at stations 1, 4 and 7.

The majority of dead *P. nobilis* individuals (92) were found in shallow waters (1-4 m depth), but dead individuals were also observed at depths greater than 10 m, even at the lower depth limit of its distribution in the area (max depth 14.9 m; station 2) (Fig. 2). Living *P. nobilis* indi-



*Fig. 2:* The number of live and dead adults and juvenile individuals of *Pinna nobilis* in relation to depth in the Sea of Marmara. AL: adult alive, AD: adult dead, JL: juvenile alive, JD: juvenile dead.

**Table 1.** The number and density of live and dead adults and juvenile individuals of *Pinna nobilis* at stations in the Sea of Marmara. DR=Depth Range.

Stations	1		2		3	4	6		7		8
Transects	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T1	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1
DR (m)	1-4	1-4	5-15	4-14	13	10	3-14	3-14	8-13	6-11	8-10
Live Adult	3	4	2	5	1				1		3
Dead Adult	40	42	22	22		4	15	4	6	6	3
Live Juvenile	2	1							1		
Dead Juvenile						3				1	
Total	45	47	24	27	1	7	15	4	8	7	6
Density (ind.100 m <sup>-2</sup> ) (Dead + Live)	11.3	11.8	6	6.8	0.3	1.8	3.8	1	2	1.8	1.5
Density (ind.100 m <sup>-2</sup> ) (only Live)	1.25	1.25	0.5	1.25	0.25	-	-	-	0.5	-	0.75
Dead%	89	89	92	81	0	100	100	100	75	100	50

viduals were encountered at depths between 2.3 m and 13 m, but the largest number (14 individuals) were found at depths of 2.3-6 m (Fig. 2). Living juvenile individuals were observed at depths ranging from 0.8 m to 8 m. The largest cluster of dead individuals (82) was found in a *Cymodocea nodosa* bed at station 1 (Fig. 3); other dead individuals were encountered on gravelly coarse sand at

other stations.

During the sampling period, a mass mucilage event happened in the Sea of Marmara, occurring in all depths at all stations studied, significantly diminishing underwater visibility and resulting in a dense accumulation of mucilage on *P. nobilis* individuals and *C. nodosa* meadows (Fig. 4A).

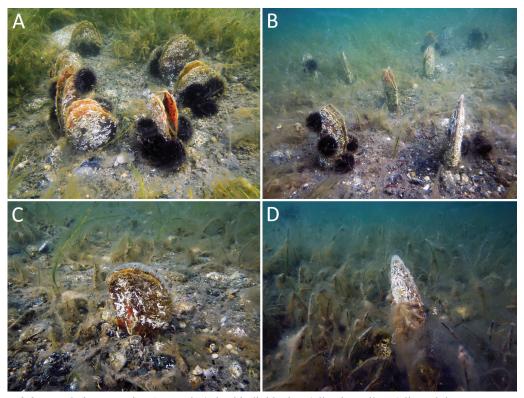
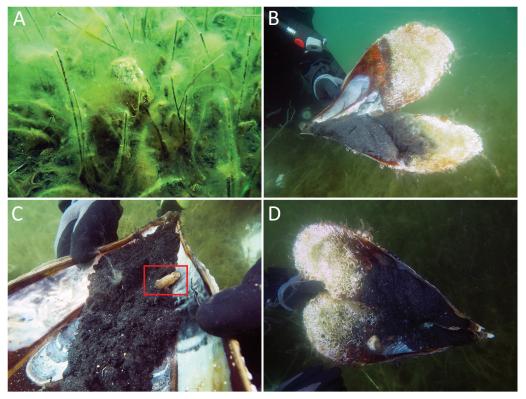


Fig. 3: Pinna nobilis population at station 1. A and B) dead individuals; C) live juvenile, D) live adult.



*Fig. 4:* A. Dense mucilage aggregations on dead *Pinna nobilis* individuals and *Cymodocea nodosa* meadows, station 1, B-D. Examples of decaying tissue and associated fauna, station 1. Note the presence of *Parablennius tentacularis* in Figure 4C.

# Associated fauna within shells of dead Pinna nobilis

A total of 34 species belonging to six taxonomic groups (Sipuncula, Oligochaeta, Polychaeta, Crustacea, Mollusca and Pisces) were found inside the dead shells of four

*P. nobilis* individuals collected at station 1 (Table 2, Fig. 4B-D). The unburied lengths of these shells were broadly similar, ranging from 15 cm to 20 cm. The most dominant species on the shells was the serpulid *Spirobranchus triqueter*, which densely covered the upper side of the inner

**Table 2.** Species list found within dead tissue (WT), on tissue (OT) and on the inner surface of shells (S) of four dead *Pinna nobilis* individuals collected at station 1.

Individual	N1	N2	N3	N4	Substrate
Unburied length (cm)	20	18	15	17	
SIPUNCULA					
Aspidosiphon muelleri (Diesing, 1851)	1		1		WT
OLIGOCHAETA					
Oligochaeta (sp.)	1	3		2	WT
POLYCHAETA					
Sigambra tentaculata (Treadwell, 1941)		1			WT
Oxydromus pallidus Claparède, 1864		1			WT
Mysta picta (Quatrefages, 1866)		1			WT
Neanthes acuminata (Ehlers, 1868)	1	1	1	2	WT
Glycera fallax Quatrefages, 1850	1				WT
Schistomeringos rudolphi (Delle Chiaje, 1828)				1	WT
Prionospio maciolekae Dagli & Çinar, 2011	1	1			WT
Capitella teleta Blake, Grassle & Eckelbarger, 2009	6	25	1	1	WT
Notomastus sp.	1				WT
Heteromastus filiformis (Claparède, 1864)				5	WT
Caulleriella bioculata (Keferstein, 1862)		1			WT
Spirobranchus triqueter (Linnaeus, 1758)	>100	>100	>100	>100	S
CRUSTACEA					
Xantho poressa (Olivi, 1792)		1		1	OT
Pagurus sp.		1			OT
MOLLUSCA					
Mytilaster lineatus (Gmelin, 1791)			1		S
Rhyssoplax olivacea (Spengler, 1797)	1				S
Bittium reticulatum (da Costa, 1778)	25	10	25	12	S
Steromphala adansonii (Payraudeau, 1826)	1	2	3	8	S
Steromphala albida (Gmelin, 1791)				1	S
Steromphala rarilineata (Michaud, 1829)				1	S
Clanculus cruciatus (Linnaeus, 1758)	2				S
Mangelia unifasciata (Deshayes, 1835)				1	S
Tritia incrassata (Strøm, 1768)				1	S
Tricolia pullus (Linnaeus, 1758)			1		WT
Alvania mamillata Risso, 1826	1				S
Vitreolina antiflexa (Monterosato, 1884)	1				S
Weinkauffia turgidula (Forbes, 1844)	1				S
Pusillina sp.	1	1			S
Tritia reticulata (Linnaeus, 1758)		2			S
Mangelia costulata Risso, 1826		1	1		S
Retusa truncatula (Bruguière, 1792)		1			S
PISCES					
Parablennius tentacularis (Brünnich, 1768)	1		1		OT

surfaces of the shells. Mollusks (mostly gastropods) were found crawling on *S. triqueter* tubes, but *Tritia reticulata* individuals were found feeding on the decaying tissue of the shells. High numbers of organic-pollution indicator species such as the annelids *Neanthes acuminata* (previously known as *N. caudata*) and *Capitella teleta*, which was particularly common, were present in the decaying tissues of all *P. nobilis* individuals. Three motile species, i.e., the crab *Xantho poressa*, the pagurid *Pagurus* sp. and the fish *Parablennius tentacularis*, were observed on decaying tissues (Fig. 4C).

#### Discussion

It was known that the Sea of Marmara, especially the southern Marmara Sea, had dense beds of P. nobilis (Ondes et al., 2020; Çinar et al., 2021). In a study conducted on these beds in September 2020, it was reported that 90% of the population of P. nobilis was healthy and that the epidemic disease that has caused mass mortality of this species in the Mediterranean had not occurred in the region (Çinar et al., 2021). It was stated that this promising situation was presumably due to an ecological feature of the Sea of Marmara, the brackish water. However, it was also suggested that transmission of the disease to the Sea of Marmara's P. nobilis individuals might be inevitable. Unfortunately, the present study, which was carried out just seven months after the aforementioned survey, indicated that the majority of *P. nobilis* individuals (>85%) found in the south Marmara Islands and Kapıdağ Peninsula had died off. In a recent study conducted in the Çanakkale Strait (Künili et al., 2021), Haplosporidum pinnae and the bacteria Vibrio coralliilyticus, V. tubiashii, V. mediterranei and V. hispanicus were identified; these were presumably responsible for the death of *P. nobilis* individuals in that region. It is plausible that the same pathogens are affecting the P. nobilis population of the southern Marmara Sea; but this remains to be investigated by molecular and histological studies. Another plausible cause of the mass mortality event experienced by fan mussels in the Sea of Marmara is the mass mucilage event that was observed during the same period causing mass benthos mortality of sponges such as Aplysina aerophoba, Sarcotragus spp., Ircinia spp. and Haliclona spp., and the mussel Mytilus galloprovincialis. The existence of live adult and juvenile individuals recorded in this study might be a beacon of hope for the species' survival in the region. However, whether the survivors will remain unaffected can only be revealed by further surveys that monitor the health status of P. nobilis in the area.

As nearly all *P. nobilis* individuals appeared to be healthy in September 2020 and a mass mortality event was detected in April 2021, the onset of deaths in the region might have occurred in mid or late autumn, when the surface sea water temperatures were still above 20 °C. It is estimated that deaths of *P. nobilis* continued until April, when the sampling was conducted, as the surface water temperature remained above 13.5 °C (at least in

December), the threshold under which disease-causing parasite and bacteria become inactive (García-March *et al.*, 2020).

The percentage of mortality varied among the stations, but it was 100% in the vast majority of the stations in the investigated area. Similar high mortalities have been reported in the western and eastern Mediterranean (90%-100%) (Vázquez-Luis et al., 2017; Katsanevakis et al., 2021), in the Adriatic Sea (36%-100%) (Čižmek et al., 2020), in the Aegean Sea (75%-100%) (Katsanevakis et al., 2019; Öndeş et al., 2020), on the southern coast of the Çanakkale Strait (99%) (Özalp & Kersting, 2020), and along the Çanakkale Strait (9%-100%) (Acarli et al., 2021; Künili et al., 2021).

In this study, the highest population density (including dead and live individuals) of *Pinna nobilis* was estimated as 11.8 ind.100 m<sup>-2</sup> at station 1. In a previous study performed in the region by Çinar *et al.* (2021), the density reported was as high as 400 ind.100 m<sup>-2</sup>. This discrepancy in the density scores is mainly related to differences in the methodology applied. In the study conducted by Çinar *et al.* (2021), sampling was carried out only at the depth where the *P. nobilis* beds were present. However, in the present study, observations were made along transects placed perpendicular to the shore starting from a 0.5 m depth. In this case, not only the depths and habitats where *P. nobilis* beds occurred, but also other depths and habitats (including rocky areas) in the region were included in the calculation.

The Sea of Marmara is affected by eutrophication (Ediger et al., 2016). The region is densely populated and industrialised, with more than 20% of Turkey's population and 50% of industry located in its drainage basin. The municipal and industrial inputs to its drainage basin, together with nutrients and organic inputs from the Black Sea, have polluted the Marmara Sea since the 1970s (Polat & Tuğrul, 1995). Increased nutrient inputs and global warming have led to mucilage events in recent years (Aktan et al., 2008). Mucilage aggregations have become more intensive and frequent than ever before in the region, including the south Marmara Islands (pers. obs.), from October 2020 until the time of writing (May 2021). Many habitats and species have been affected by the coverage of extensive mucilage accumulations and the resulting oxygen depletion from bacterial biodegradation has caused the mass mortality of many species (including fish). During our research, dense mucilage in the water column considerably decreased underwater visibility (to ca. 3-4 m) and was observed smothering mussel beds, sponges, Cymodocea nodosa meadows and P. nobilis individuals. It has previously been reported that eutrophication events caused high mortalities of P. nobilis in refuge sites like the Mar Menor in Spain (Giménez-Casalduero et al., 2020). If the mortality was somehow related to the mucilage event, there is still the possibility of the Sea of Marmara being a refuge for the species. It will therefore be crucial to monitor survivors and to have information about other *P. nobilis* populations in the area. In the Ebro's Delta (Spain), it was reported that some populations have been only partially affected by the disease following a

salinity gradient (Prado et al., 2021).

Numerous macrozoobenthic species have been identified within the decaying tissues of the *P. nobilis* individuals. Some (e.g., *Spirobranchus triqueter*) used dead shells as a substratum, while others (especially gastropods) were observed feeding on filamentous algae that had settled on dead shells. Some species (*Parablennius tentacularis* and *Xantho poressa*) used the dead shells as a shelter. Opportunistic polychaete species found in organic polluted sediments in the Mediterranean Sea (Ergen *et al.*, 2006; Çinar *et al.*, 2009) were found living within the rotting tissues of *P. nobilis*. Some of these species were previously reported on the outer surface of the shells of living *P. nobilis* individuals (Çinar *et al.*, 2021).

The Sea of Marmara seems to be no longer a viable hope for the future of P. nobilis. What to do next? Surveys to monitor the health status, identify the cause of the observed mortality and track the mortality outbreaks of the species in the region are essential for guiding actions to protect the species and its habitats, particularly where the *P. nobilis* populations are still unaffected by the epidemic. Currently, healthy individuals of *P. nobilis* in the Mediterranean Sea have been confined at some localities: Thau Lagoon (France, Foulquié et al., 2020), Ebro's Delta and Mar Menor Lagoon (Spain, Cabanellas-Reboredo et al., 2019; García-March et al., 2020), Venice Lagoon (Italy, Katsanevakis et al., 2021), Kalloni Gulf (Greece, Katsanevakis et al., 2021) and some localities in the Çanakkale Strait (Acarli et al., 2021). These areas not only act as refuges but are also potential larval exporting sites (Kerstling et al., 2020). Surveys to determine the disease mechanism of the pathogens and why some individuals are more resistant to pathogens should be carried out continuously. If the current trend continues, we might face the regional extinction of this species. The ex-situ conservation of *P. nobilis* should be taken into consideration, though no attempts to complete its full life cycle in captivity have been successful (Katsanevakis et al., 2021).

# Acknowledgements

This study was supported by the MarIAS Project (Addressing Invasive Alien Species Threats at Key Marine Biodiversity Areas Project), which is being implemented by the Directorate General for Nature Conservation and National Parks under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and UNDP with the financial support of Global Environment Facility (GEF).

#### References

- Acarli, S., Acarli, D., Kale, S., 2021. Current status of critically endangered fan mussel *Pinna nobilis* (Linnaeus 1758) population in Çanakkale Strait, Turkey. *Marine Science and Technology Bulletin*, 10, 62-70.
- Aktan, Y., Dede, A., Ciftci, P.S., 2008. Mucilage event associated with diatoms and dinoflagellates in Sea of Marmara,

- Turkey. Harmful Algae News, 36, 1-3.
- Cabanellas-Reboredo, M., Vázquez -Luis, M., Mourre, B., Álvarez, E., Deudero, S. *et al.*, 2019. Tracking a mass mortality outbreak of pen shell *Pinna nobilis* populations: A collaborative effort of scientists and citizens. *Scientific Reports*, 9 (1), 1-11.
- Carella, F., Antuofermo, E., Farina, S., Salati, F., Mandas, D. *et al.*, 2020. In the wake of the ongoing mass mortality events: co-occurrence of *Mycobacterium*, *Haplosporidium* and other pathogens in *Pinna nobilis* collected in Italy and Spain (Mediterranean Sea). *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 7, 48.
- Catanese, G., Grau, A., Valencia, J.M., Garcia-March, J.R., Vázquez-Luis, M. *et al.*, 2018. *Haplosporidium pinnae* sp. nov., a haplosporidan parasite associated with mass mortalities of the fan mussel, *Pinna nobilis*, in the Western Mediterranean Sea. *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology*, 157, 9-24.
- Çinar, M.E., Balkis, H., Albayrak, S., Dagli, E., Karhan, S.Ü., 2009. Distribution of polychaete species (Polychaeta) on the polluted soft substrate of the Golden Horn Estuary (Sea of Marmara), with special emphasis on alien species. *Cahiers de Biologie Marine*, 50 (1), 11-17.
- Çinar, M.E., Bilecenoğlu, M., Yokeş, M.B., Güçlüsoy, H., 2021. Pinna nobilis in the south Marmara Islands (Sea of Marmara); it still remains uninfected by the epidemic and acts as egg laying substratum for an alien invader. Mediterranean Marine Science, 22 (1), 161-168.
- Čižmek, H., Čolic, B., Gračan, R., Grau, A., Catanese, G., 2020. An emergency situation for pen shells in the Mediterranean: The Adriatic Sea, one of the last *Pinna nobilis* shelters, is now affected by a mass mortality event. *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology*, 173, 107388.
- Ediger, D., Beken, Ç., Yüksek, A., Tuğrul, S., 2016. Eutrophication in the Sea of Marmara. In: Özsoy, E., Çağatay, M.N., Balkıs, N., Balkıs, N., Öztürk, B. (Eds.), The Sea of Marmara; Marine Biodiversity, Fisheries, Conservation and Governance. Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV), Publication No: 42, Istanbul, pp. 723-736.
- Ergen, Z., Çinar, M.E., Dağlı, E., Kurt, G., 2006. Seasonal dynamics of soft-bottom polychaetes in Izmir Bay (Aegean Sea, eastern Mediterranean). In: Scientific Advances in Polychaete Research (R. Sarda, G. San Martin, E. Lopez, D. Martin & D. George, eds.). Scientia Marina, 70 (S3), 197-207.
- Foulquié, M., Dupuy de la Grandrive, R., Dalias, N., Vicente, N., 2020. Inventory and health status of the populations of *Pinna nobilis* (L.1758) in Thau lagoon (Herault, France). *Marine Life*, in press.
- García-March, J.R., Tena, J., Henandis, S., Vázquez-Luis, M., López, D. *et al.*, 2020. Can we save a marine species affected by a highly infective, highly lethal, waterborne disease from extinction? *Biological Conservation*, 243, 108498.
- Giménez-Casalduero, F., Gomariz-Castillo, F., Alonso-Sarría, F., Cortés, E., Izquierdo-Muñoz, A. et al., 2020. Pinna nobilis in the Mar Menor coastal lagoon: a story of colonization and uncertainty. Marine Ecology Progress Series, 652, 77-94
- Katsanevakis, S., Tsirintanis, K., Tsaparis, D., Doukas, D., Sini, M. et al., 2019. The cryptogenic parasite Haplosporidium pinnae invades the Aegean Sea and causes the collapse of Pinna nobilis populations. Aquatic Invasions, 14 (2), 150–164.

- Katsanevakis, S., Carella, F., Çinar, M.E., Čižmek, H., Jimenez, C. et al., 2021. The fan mussel Pinna nobilis on the brink of extinction in the Mediterranean. The Encyclopedia of Conservation, in press.
- Kersting, D.K., Benabdi ,M., Čižmek, H., Grau, A., Jimenez, C. *et al.*, 2019. *Pinna nobilis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2019: e.T160075998A160081499.
- Kerstling, D.K., Vázquez-Luis, M., Mourre, B., Belkhamssa, F.Z., Álvarez, E. et al., 2020. Recruitment disruption and the role of unaffected populations for potential recovery after the Pinna nobilis mass mortality event. Frontiers in Marine Science, 7, 882.
- Künili, I.E., Gürkan, S.E., Aksu, A., Turgay, E., Çakir, F. *et al.* 2021. Mass mortality in endangered fan mussels *Pinna nobilis* (Linnaeus 1758) caused by co-infection of *Haplosporidium pinnae* and multiple *Vibrio* infection in Canakkale Strait, Turkey. *Biomarkers*, 26 (5), 450-461.
- Öndes, F., Alan, V., Akçalı, B., Güçlüsoy, H., 2020. Mass mortality of the fan mussel *Pinna nobilis* in Turkey (eastern Mediterranean). *Marine Ecology*, 41 (5), e12607.
- Özalp, H.B., Kersting, D.K., 2020. A pan-Mediterranean extinction? *Pinna nobilis* mass mortality has reached the Turkish Straits System. *Marine Biodiversity*, 50, 81.
- Özsoy, E., Altıok, H., 2016. A review of hydrography of the Turkish Straits System. In: Özsoy, E., Çağatay, M.N.,

- Balkıs, N., Balkıs, N., Öztürk, B. (Eds.), The Sea of Marmara; Marine Biodiversity, Fisheries, Conservation and Governance. Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV), Publication No: 42, Istanbul, pp. 13-42.
- Panarese, R., Tedesco, P., Chimienti, G., Latrofa, M.S., Quaglio, F. *et al.*, 2019. *Haplosporidium pinnae* associated with mass mortality in endangered *Pinna nobilis* (Linnaeus 1758) fan mussels. *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology*, 164, 32-37.
- Polat, Ç., Tuğrul, S., 1995. Nutrient and organic carbon exchanges between the Black and Marmara Seas through the Bosphorus Strait. *Continental Shelf Research*, 15 (9), 1115-1132.
- Prado, P., Grau, A., Catanese, G., Cabanes, P., Carella, F. et al., 2021 Pinna nobilis in suboptimal environments are more Vulnerable to severe weather phenomena. Marine Environmental Research, 163, 105220.
- Scarpa, F., Sanna, D., Azzena, I., Mugetti, D., Cerruti, F. et al., 2020. Multiple non-species-specific pathogens possibly triggered the mass mortality in *Pinna nobilis*. *Life*, 10 (10), 238
- Vázquez-Luis, M., Álvarez, E., Barrajón, A., García-March, J.R., Grau, A. et al., 2017. S.O.S. Pinna nobilis: A mass mortality event in Western Mediterranean Sea. Frontiers in Marine Science, 4, 220.