



Short communication

First record of the bluespotted cornetfish, *Fistularia commersonii* Rüppell, 1835 (Osteichthyes: Fistulariidae) in Edremit Bay (north-eastern Aegean Sea)

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Introduction

Since the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, there has been an influx of Red Sea and Indo-Pacific species into the Mediterranean Sea, a phenomenon known as Lessepsian migration. Over the past decades, 74 Lessepsian fish species have been recorded in the Mediterranean (Golani, 2010), with six of these species reaching the north-eastern Aegean Sea (Türker-Çakır and Metin, 2012).

The bluespotted cornetfish *F. commersonii* Rüppell, 1835, a reef-associated species of minor importance to commercial fisheries, is widely distributed in the East Pacific, from Mexico to Panama, in southern Japanese, Australian and New Zealand waters, in East African waters, and in the Red Sea (Froese and Pauly, 2012). First recorded in Israeli waters of the Mediterranean in January 2000, it was classified as a new Lessepsian migrant (Golani, 2000).

This paper presents the first record and description of the Lessepsian migrant bluespotted cornetfish *F. commersonii* Rüppell, 1835 (Fistulariidae) in the north-eastern Aegean Sea.

Materials and methods

On 8 October 2010, a bluespotted cornetfish specimen was caught by trammel net in coastal Edremit Bay (north-eastern Aegean Sea, Turkey) at about 60 m depth, on a rocky bottom interspersed with sandy patches. The specimen was identified and deposited in the collection of the Zoological Museum of Balıkesir University (ZDBAU/PM 106).

Results

The specimen had the typical diagnostic features of *F. commersonii* [i.e. 15 dorsal, 14 anal, 14 pectoral, and 6 pelvic fin rays; no elongated body plates along the dorsal midline in front of and behind the dorsal fin (Golani, 2000)]. This species can be distinguished from all other Mediterranean similar-bodied fish by its very long tubular mouth, extremely elongated body shape and whip-like filamented caudal middle rays. *F. commersonii* is brownish-olive in colour, with rows of blue spots and a pair of blue

stripes along the back, a white belly, and orange crested fins transparent at the base.

Total length (TL) of the captured *F. commersonii* was TL = 53.9 cm, standard length SL = 51.5 cm and total weight 68.8 g.

For comparative purposes, some morphometrical and meristic measurements of all *F. commersonii* specimens described to date from the Mediterranean Sea are also given (Table 1); most of the measurements are in agreement with previously reports.

Discussion

In 2001 the bluespotted cornetfish was reported to be highly abundant in the waters off the Island of Rhodes (south-eastern Aegean Island; Corsini et al., 2002). It was then recorded on the Anatolian coast of Turkey (Bilecenoglu et al., 2002; Gököğlü et al., 2002), southern Italy (Azzuro et al., 2004), Tunisian coast (Ben Souissi et al., 2004), Rafraf locality (Charfi-Cheikhrouha, 2004), the Strait of Sicily (Fiorentino et al., 2004), Chalkidiki Peninsula (Karachle et al., 2004) and the Gulf of Castellammare (Pipitone et al., 2004), Monte Argentario (Micarelli et al., 2006) Beirut, Bebnine and Saida (El-Assi, 2006); İskenderun Bay (Dalyan, 2006), Antalya Gulf (Gülyavuz et al., 2006), and many other locations depicted in Fig. 1 and presented in Table 1. Because of its rapid spread throughout the Mediterranean it was nicknamed the ‘Lessepsian sprinter’ (Karachle et al., 2004). There are many records of the bluespotted cornetfish on the Aegean Sea coast, however, there is no certainty as to whether the species has established a population in the Levantine basin despite the abundance and rapid rate of northward expansion in the past 10 years in Aegean waters. In any event, the impact of the possible successful colonization by these and other exotic fish species would, at a minimum, represent a significant change in the composition of the native ichthyofauna.

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Table 1
Meristic-metric measurements and Mediterranean area specimen comparisons of *F. commersonii*

Study area-Year	N	W	TL	SL	HL	Snout	ED	D	A	Resource
1. Israeli Waters-2000	3	10.3-82.5	*	26.8-51.6	9.58-19.7	6.89-14.56	0.8-1.74	15	14	Golani, 2000;
2. Antalya-Antalya Bay-2001	2	*	*	69.1-72.8	*	*	*	*	*	Bilecenoglu et al., 2002;
3. Rhodes Island-2001	37	*	*	14.1-73.4	*	*	*	14-16	13-16	Corsini et al., 2002;
4. Antalya Gulf-2000-2001	9	8.2-350.0	23.6-77.4	22.8-71.5	9.0-26.5	*	0.8-2.0	14-16	14-15	Gökoğlu et al., 2002;
4. Gökova Bay-2001	1	180	64.0	60.8	22.0	*	1.9	14	14	Gökoğlu et al., 2002;
5. Lampeyusa Island-2002	1	1150	*	104.5	36.9	27.9	2.9	15	14	Azzuro et al., 2004;
6. Gabes Gulf-2002	1	*	*	98.7	*	*	*	*	*	Ben Souissi et al., 2004;
7. Raftaf Locality-2004	1	*	103	86	*	24	*	*	*	Charfi-Cheikhrouha, 2004;
8. The Strait of Sicily	1	345	90.4	76.7	28.5	21.0	1.8	14	14	Fiorentino et al., 2004
9. Chalkidiki Peninsula-2003	1	448.1	92	88.4	*	*	*	15	14	Karachle et al., 2004;
10. NW. Sicily-2003	1	437	*	84.5	*	*	*	*	*	Pipitone et al., 2004;
11. Monte Argentario-2004	1	255	*	78.9	32.0	*	2.0	14	14	Micarelli et al., 2006;
12. Iskenderun Bay-2005	3	*	60.5-64.8	*	*	*	*	14-15	13-14	Dalyan, 2006;
13. Beirut, Bebbine, Saïda-2003-2004	156	55.63-1033	36.0-112.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	ElAssi, 2006;
14. Antalya Gulf-2004	5	105-350	55.6-77.0	*	*	*	*	14-16	14-16	Gülyavuz et al., 2006;
15. N. Tyrrhenian Sea-2006	1	550.5	101	96.5	28.5	22	2.3	14	13	Ligas et al., 2007;
16. Sardinia-2005	1	410.6	97.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	Pais et al., 2007;
17. Iberian Peninsula-2007	1	543	104.0	89.0	31.5	22.5	2.2	16	16	Sánchez-Tocino et al., 2007;
18. Adriatic Sea-2006	2	530-1210	102.0-115.0	85.0-110.8	*	*	*	15	14	Dulčić et al., 2008;
19. W. Ligurian Sea-2007	1	450	92.6	81	*	*	*	15	14	Garibaldi and Orsi-Relini, 2008;
20. S. Ionian Sea-2008	1	292	90.7	74.3	26.7	*	0.7	15	14	Bardamaskos et al., 2009;
21. Lebanon-2003-2004	841	*	25.7-112.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	Bariche et al., 2009;
22. S. Mediterranean-2007	1	395	95.5	*	*	*	*	16	15	Elbaraasi and Elsalini, 2009;
23. Algerian coast-2008	3	205-405	85-86.3	81-83.3	29-29.9	20.7-21.5	1.6-2.3	13-14	14	Hichem Kara and Oudjane, 2009;
24. Balearic Islands-2007-2008	5	345-533	90.2-111.7	77.5-84.5	27.6-31.0	*	2.1-2.6	15	14	Mas et al., 2009;
25. Tyrrhenian Sea-2007	11	*	92.7-101.3	73.5-84.7	22.7-30.5	*	1.9-2.4	14-15	13-15	Psomadakis et al., 2009;
26. French Mediterranean coasts	51	*	*	47-125	*	*	*	*	*	Bodilis et al., 2011;
27. Sicily Island-2010	1	450	102	*	*	*	*	14	14	Deidun and Germaná, 2011;
28. Lebanon, 2005-2006; 2009	1073	*	51.4-113	*	*	*	*	*	*	Bariche et al., 2013
29. Edremit Bay-2010	1	68.80	53.9	51.5	19.2	13.3	1.7	14	14	This study

N, Number of individuals; W, Weight(g); TL, Total length (cm); SL, Standard length (cm); HL, Head length (cm); ED, Eye diameter(cm); D, Dorsal fin, A: Anal fin.

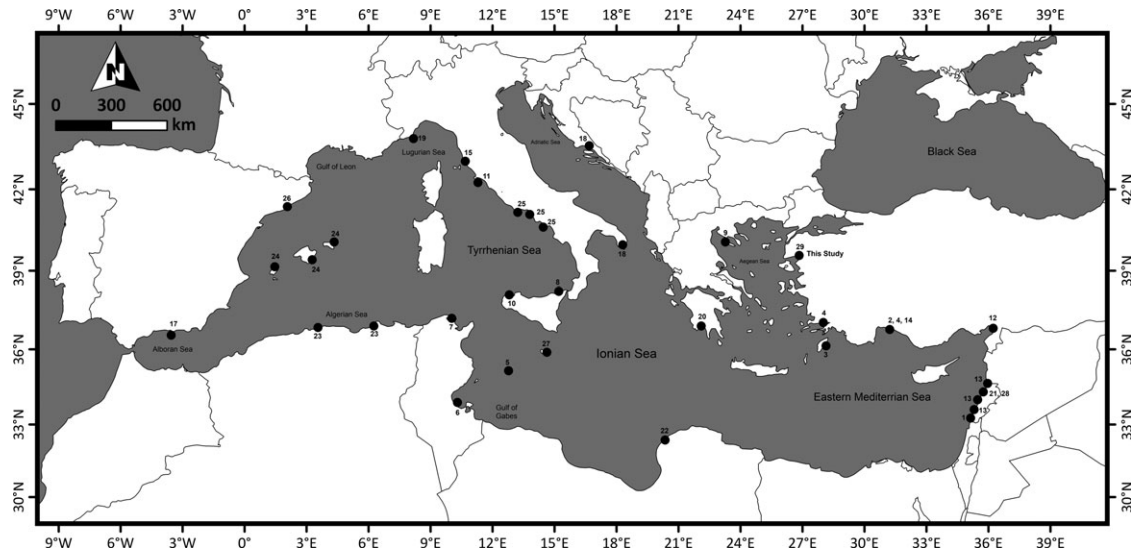


Fig. 1. *F. commersonii* Rüppell, 1835 capture location, North-eastern Aegean Sea (Edremit Bay) (this study, record no. 29). Station numbers: 1-Israeli Waters (Golani, 2000), 2-Alanya-Antalya Bay, Turkey (Bilecenoglu et al., 2002), 3-Rhodes Island (south-eastern Aegean Sea) (Corsini et al., 2002), 4-Gulf of Antalya and Gulf of Gökova Turkey (Gökoğlu et al., 2002), 5- Southern Italy (Azzuro et al., 2004), 6-Tunisian coast (Ben Souissi et al., 2004), 7-Rafraf locality (Charfi-Cheikhrouha, 2004), 8-Strait of Sicily (Fiorentino et al., 2004), 9- Chalkidiki Peninsula (Karachle et al., 2004), 10-Gulf of Castellammare (Pipitone et al., 2004), 11-Monte Argentario (Micarelli et al., 2006), 12-İskenderun Bay, Turkey (Dalyan, 2006), 13-Beirut, Bebnine and Saida (El-Assi, 2006), 14-Antalya Gulf, Turkey (Gülyavuz et al., 2006), 15-North Tyrrhenian Sea (Ligas et al., 2007), 16-Island of Sardinia (Italy) (Pais et al., 2007), 17-Iberian Peninsula (Sánchez-Tocino et al., 2007), 18-Adriatic Sea (Dulčić et al., 2008), 19-West Ligurian Sea (Garibaldi and Orsi-Relini, 2008), 20-South Ionian Sea (Bardamaskos et al., 2009), 21-Levantine coast off Lebanon (Bariche et al., 2009), 22-South Mediterranean (Elbaraasi and Elsalini, 2009), 23-Algerian coast (Hichem Kara and Oudjane, 2009), 24-Balearic Islands (Mas et al., 2009), 25-Tyrrhenian Sea (Psomadakis et al., 2009), 26-French Mediterranean coasts (Bodilis et al., 2011), 27-Sicily (Deidun and Germaná, 2011), 28-Lebanese shores (Bariche et al., 2013).

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