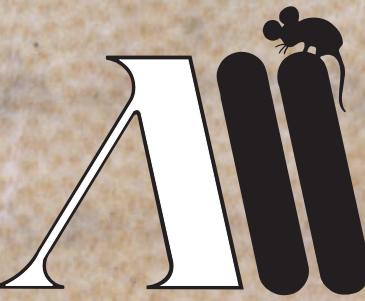


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ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *SERIOLA FASCIATA* (CARANGIDAE) IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA

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ABSTRACT

This paper reports on a record of Seriola fasciata suggesting the extension of the species' distribution in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. On 8 September 2021, a single specimen of S. fasciata was caught by trammel net at a depth of 30–40 m off Yıldız Island, Marmaris, in the south-eastern Aegean Sea. This thermophilic fish is still very rare (about 24 specimens reported up to now) in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. The present is the second S. fasciata record for the Turkish Aegean Sea and the fourth for all Turkish seas.

Key words: lesser amberjack, additional record, measurements, Yıldız Island, Aegean Sea

PRESENZA DI *SERIOLA FASCIATA* (CARANGIDAE) NEL MEDITERRANEO ORIENTALE

SINTESI

L'articolo riporta un ritrovamento di Seriola fasciata che suggerisce l'estensione della distribuzione della specie nel Mediterraneo orientale. L'8 settembre 2021, un singolo esemplare di S. fasciata è stato catturato con un trammaglio ad una profondità di 30-40 m, al largo dell'isola Yıldız, Marmaris, nell'Egeo sud-orientale. Questo pesce termofilo è ancora molto raro (circa 24 esemplari riportati fino ad ora) nel Mediterraneo orientale. Questo ritrovamento è il secondo di S. fasciata per il Mar Egeo turco e il quarto per tutti i mari turchi.

Parole chiave: ricciola fasciata, ulteriore ritrovamento, misurazioni, isola di Yıldız, Mar Egeo

INTRODUCTION

Seriola fasciata (Bloch, 1793) is spread both in the western Atlantic (from Massachusetts, USA, to Brazil) and in the eastern Atlantic (Madeira), but eastern Atlantic distribution is uncertain due to past confusion with *Seriola carpenteri* (Froese & Pauly, 2021). Being an Atlantic species, *S. fasciata* expanded its distribution range throughout the Mediterranean, from the Balearic Islands to Haifa Bay (Yapıcı & Filiz, 2020). This species entered the Mediterranean Sea through the Strait of Gibraltar, and Massuti and Stefanescu (1993) provided the first Mediterranean record from the Balearic Islands (Spain) in 1989. Thereafter, *S. fasciata* spread throughout the central and western Mediterranean (Golani *et al.*, 2002). Sporadic catches of *S. fasciata* have occurred since 1994 especially in Maltese coastal waters, primarily beneath fish-aggregating devices (FADs), such as palm fronds deployed in dolphin fish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) fishery, by means of trolling lines or angling from the shoreline (Andaloro *et al.*, 2005). Andaloro *et al.* (2005) stated that the successive records of *S. fasciata* from west to east clearly show that the species successfully adapted to the warm waters of the southern Mediterranean and settled there gradually.

Lesser amberjack, *Seriola fasciata*, inhabits near-bottom or bottom zones between 55 m and 130 m of depth; large juveniles live in pelagic or benthic

zones in shelf waters; smaller juveniles in the epipelagic zones of offshore neritic waters (Smith-Vaniz, 1986). The species feeds on squid and fish (Smith-Vaniz, 1986). Its maximum fork length (FL) is 675 mm, common length 500 mm TL, and the maximum published weight so far 4.6 kg (Froese & Pauly, 2021).

This paper presents a new and additional record of *S. fasciata* in a determinate area of the Turkish Aegean Sea, enhancing information about its distribution in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

On 8 September 2021, a single specimen of *Seriola fasciata* (Fig. 1) was captured on a sandy bottom by trammel net at a depth of 30–40 m, off Yılcık Island, Marmaris (coordinates 36°46.35 N - 28°25.58 E, Fig. 2) in the south-eastern Aegean Sea. The specimen was fixed in a 6% formaldehyde solution and deposited in the fish collection of Ege University, Fisheries Faculty (ESFM-PIS/2021-001).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The specimen was measured to the nearest millimetre. It had a TL of 155 mm and weighed 59.6 g. The morphometric measurements as percentages of total length (TL%) and the meristic counts recorded in the *S. fasciata* captured from Yılcık Island, off



Fig. 1: *Seriola fasciata* caught off Yılcık Island, off Marmaris, SE Aegean Sea (ref. ESFM-PIS/2021-001, scale bar: 50 mm, photo: O. Akyol).

Sl. 1: Primerek vrste *Seriola fasciata*, ujet blizu otoka Yılcık, Marmaris, JV Egejsko morje (ref. ESFM-PIS/2021-001, merilo: 50 mm, foto: O. Akyol).

Tab. 1: Morphometric measurements as percentages of total length (TL%) and meristic counts recorded in the *Seriola fasciata* captured from the Aegean Sea.

Tab. 1: Morfometrične meritve, označene v deležih glede na celotno dolžino (TL%), in meristična štetja na primerku malega gofa, *Seriola fasciata*, ujetega v Egejskem morju.

Measurements	Size (mm)	Proportion (TL%)
Total length (TL)	155	
Fork length (FL)	139	89.7
Standard length (SL)	125	80.6
Maximum body depth	46	29.7
Pre-dorsal fin length	42	27.1
Pre-anal fin length	84	54.2
Pre-pectoral length	37	23.9
Head length	39	25.2
Eye diameter	9	5.8
Preorbital length	11	7.1
Interorbital length	16	10.3
Meristic counts		
1 st Dorsal fin rays	VIII	
2 nd Dorsal fin rays	I+28	
Anal fin rays	II, I+19	
Pectoral fin rays	I+19	
Ventral fin rays	I+5	
Weight (g)	59.6	

Marmaris, Aegean Sea are shown in Table 1. Short description: body oblong, moderately deep and slightly compressed. Two dorsal fins, the first small with eight spines, the last spine minute and embedded. Second dorsal fin with one spine and 28 rays. Anal fin with two small spines separated from the rest of the fin. The soft ray portion with 19 rays. Small pectoral fin with 20 rays. Ventral fin with one spine and five rays. Colour: Body background grey/yellow with eight dark bars. The first bar the darkest, the rest irregular and broken, the 4th to 8th extending into the dorsal fin. Dark spot at midpoint of caudal fin. First dorsal fin dark. Second dorsal, anal, and caudal fins with a touch of yellow. All the meas-

urements, counts, proportions, and colour patterns determined are in accordance with the descriptions by Smith-Vaniz (1986), Golani et al. (2002), Deidun et al. (2011), Yapıcı and Filiz (2020), and Froese and Pauly (2021).

Seriola fasciata is gradually spreading towards the eastern basin of the Mediterranean. The literature-based recordings of *S. fasciata* throughout the Mediterranean are shown on a map in a recent study by Yapıcı and Filiz (2020). Additionally, in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, some *S. fasciata* have been reported intermittently; these are shown in Table 2.

The studied specimen was evidently juvenile. Smith-Vaniz (1986) specified that the juveniles are smaller than 20 cm FL. Thus, most records in Table 2 are juvenile recordings. This phenomenon suggests that there may be a spawning-stock biomass of *S. fasciata* in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Azzurro (2008) discussed the thermophilic fish species that expanded their distribution range in the Mediterranean basin, also including *S. fasciata*.

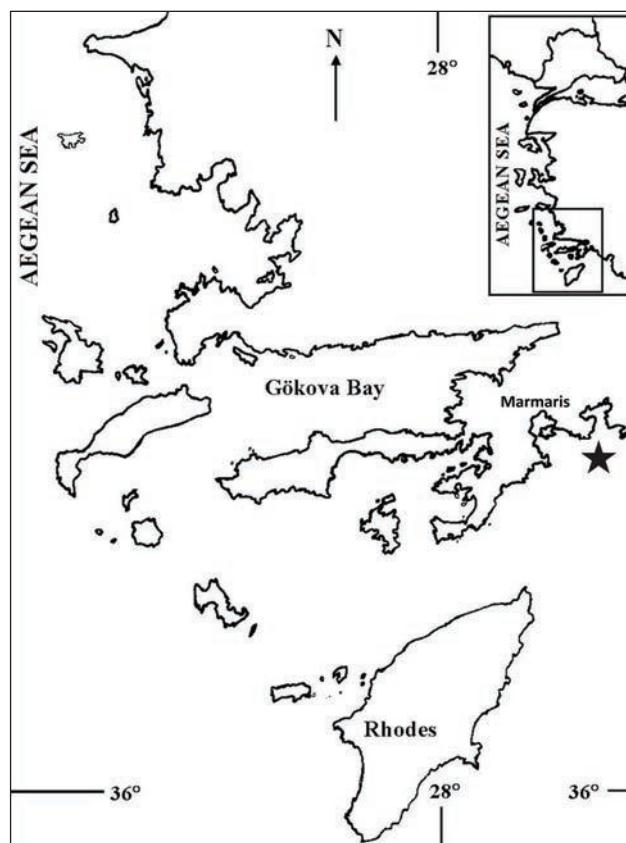


Fig. 2: Map showing the sampling site (black star) of *Seriola fasciata* in the Aegean Sea.

Sl. 2: Zemljevid obravnavanega območja z označeno lokaliteto (črna zvezdica) najdbe vrste *Seriola fasciata* v Egejskem morju.

Tab. 2: Intermittent records of *Seriola fasciata* in the eastern Mediterranean.**Tab. 2: Občasne najdbe malega gofa v vzhodnem Sredozemskem morju.**

Area	Date	n	TL (mm)	Depth (m)	References
Ialissos-Trianda Bay, Rhodes	Nov. 2004	1	177	50-80	Corsini et al. (2004)
Haifa, Israel	12 Sep. 2008	2	151a	?	Sonin et al. (2009)
Latakia, Syria	19 Oct. 2013	1	148	15	Jawad et al. (2015)
Gulf of Antalya	25 Sep. 2012	1	?	35-50	Kapiris et al. (2014)
Gulf of Antalya	19 Nov. 2013	1	?	35-50	Kapiris et al. (2014)
Off Alexandria, Egypt	12 July 2017	15	120-170b	60	Stamouli et al. (2017)
Didim-Akbük, Aegean Sea	7 Oct. 2018	1	301	30	Yapıcı & Filiz (2020)
Çevlik coast, İskenderun Bay	10 Nov. 2018	1	183b	60-70	Doğdu et al. (2019)
off Marmaris, Aegean Sea	08 Sep. 2021	1	139	30-40	This study

However, the thermophilic fish *S. fasciata* is still very rare (about 24 specimens reported up to now) in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. In conclusion, this paper on the occurrence of *S. fasciata* presents not only the second record for the Turkish Aegean Sea, but also the fourth record for all Turkish seas.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors thank Mr. Mesut Güven, who is the manager of Marmaris Fishery Cooperative for his bringing the fish our attention.

O POJAVLJANJU VRSTE *SERIOLA FASCIATA* (CARANGIDAE) V VZHODNEM SREDOZEMSKEM MORJU

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POVZETEK

Avtorja poročata o najdbi vrste *Seriola fasciata*, ki kaže na širjenje areala vrste v vzhodno Sredozemsko morje. Osmega septembra 2021 so v trislojno mrežo ujeli primerek vrste *S. fasciata* na globini med 30 in 40 m v vodah blizu otoka Yılcık, Marmaris, v jugovzhodnem Egejskem morju. Ta toploljubna vrsta je še vedno zelo redka v vzhodnem Sredozemskem morju (okoli 24 potrjenih primerkov doslej). Gre za drugi zapis o pojavljanju vrste *S. fasciata* v turškem Egejskem morju in za četrti zapis o pojavljanju v turških morjih.

Ključne besede: mali gof, dodatni zapis, meritve, Yılcık Island, Egejsko morje

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