

First Record of *Trachipterus trachipterus* (Gmelin, 1789) in the Gulf of Antalya (Turkey)**Mehmet GÖKOĞLU^{1*}**, **Mehmet Rüştü ÖZEN²**¹Akdeniz University, Fisheries Faculty/Antalya Turkey.²Isparta University of Applied Sciences, Eğirdir Fisheries Faculty/Turkey*Corresponding author: gokoglu@akdeniz.edu.tr**Research Article**

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During the research in the grand port area of Antalya (coordinates: 36. 829022N; 30. 603739 E), it was observed that a very rare fish belonging to the Trachipteridae family was stranded in the Mediterranean Sea. The length of the fish, which weighs 400 g (TW = 400g), has been measured as 85cm (TL = 85cm). The fish without anal fin has a dorsal fin with red colour and soft rays, extending from the dorsal to the caudal region. In the examination made; it has been understood that this fish is Ribbon fish, *Trachipterus trachipterus* (Gmelin, 1789) which are rare fish in the Mediterranean Sea. In a review of previous studies, it was previously understood that this species was not given in the Gulf of Antalya. In the study, the Ribbon fish, *Trachipterus trachipterus* (Gmelin, 1789), is presented as a new record in the Gulf of Antalya (Turkey).

Keywords: Ribbon fish, *Trachipterus trachipterus*, rare species, Gulf of Antalya, Mediterranean Sea.

Trachipterus trachipterus*'un (Gmelin, 1789) Antalya Körfezi'nde (Türkiye) İlk Kaydı*Özet**

Antalya'nın büyük liman bölgesinde (coordinates: 36. 829022N; 30. 603739 E) yapılan bir araştırmada, Trachipteridae familyasına ait Akdeniz'de çok nadir görülen bir balığın karaya vurduğu görülmüştür. 400 gr (TW = 400 gr) ağırlığındaki balığın boyu 85cm (TL = 85cm) olarak ölçülmüştür. Anal yüzgeci olmayan balığın, dorsal bölgeden kaudal bölgeye kadar uzanan; kırmızı renkli ve yumuşak ışınlı dorsal yüzgeci görülmüştür. Yapılan incelemede; bu balığın Akdeniz'de ender bulunan kurdele balıkları *Trachipterus trachipterus* (Gmelin, 1789) olduğu belirlenmiştir. Daha önceki çalışmalar gözden geçirildiğinde, daha önce bu türün Antalya Körfezi'nde verilmediği anlaşılmıştır. Çalışmada, kurdele balığı *Trachipterus trachipterus* (Gmelin, 1789) Antalya Körfezi'nde (Türkiye) yeni bir kayıt olarak sunulmuştur.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kurdele balığı, *Trachipterus trachipterus*, nadir tür, Antalya Körfezi, Akdeniz.

INTRODUCTION

Very little is still known in mesopelagic communities belonging to the biodiversity of Mediterranean fishes. Among the deepwater species, members of the family Trachipteridae Swainson, 1839 (Lampriformes) are rare. They are represented by 10 species in 3 genera (Desmodema, Trachipterus and Zu). Of these, only species *Trachipterus arcticus* (Brünnich, 1788), *Trachipterus trachipterus* (Gmelin, 1789) *Zu cristatus* (Bonelli, 1819) have been reported to be in the Mediterranean Sea (Macali *et al.*2020). *Trachipterus trachipterus* (Gmelin, 1789) is an open sea fish belonging to the family Trachipteridae, which can reach up to 3 meters in length, living in the mesopelagic region in the tropical and subtropical seas of the world (Borne and Voltolina, 2006).

There is not much information about this fish, which is a very rare species in the Mediterranean. Most of the records are related to the presence of dead animals stranded on the coasts. This fish generally lives in the depth of 100 - 600 meters and swims with its head up. It feeds on squid and mid-water fishes. Juveniles swim near the surface, trailing elongate dorsal and pelvic fin rays, to resemble the trailing tentacles of jellyfish (Lipej *et al.*, 2018).

T. trachipterus is occasionally caught by trawls, gillnets, and long lines. Ribbon fish are seen dead, floating on the surface, or drifting to the beach by waves or tides (Borne and Voltolina, 2006).

Common name of fish in different countries: Ribbons (Turkey), Dealfish; Ribbon fish (English), Argentina, Poisson ruban (France), Band fish (Deutschland) (Quero *et al.*, 1990).

In the research, The Ribbon fish, *Trachipterus trachipterus* (Gmelin, 1789), was aimed to presentation as first record in the Gulf of Antalya.

In a study conducted on 10 April 2020; a land-striking fish was found in the Antalya Grand harbor area (coordinates: 36.829022 N; 30.603739 E) (Figure 1). The fish, whose height and weight was measured, was immediately photographed and dropped back to the sea.



Figure 1. Sampling area (Gulf of Antalya, Turkey).

Fish without an anal fin has a dorsal fin that is red-colored and soft-rayed, continuing from the back of the head to the tail area on the dorsal. Its pectoral and pelvic fins are also red in color and thin. He has large eyes on both sides of his blunt head. The body of the fish without scales is bright silvery in color, and two rounds, a large and pronounced dorsal line, and two smaller round spots on the ventral line were noted just above the linea lateralis. Its mouth is small and anteriorly shaped. The length of the fish, which weighs 400 g (TW = 400g), has been measured as 85cm (TL = 85cm). Considering these distinctive features, the fish was found to be the rare ribbon fish *Trachipterus trachipterus* (Gmelin, 1789) in the Mediterranean Sea (Figure 2).



Figure 2. *Trachipterus trachipterus* from in the Gulf of Antalya (Turkey)

T. trachipterus is one of the very rare fish species in the Mediterranean (Mytilineou et al., 2013; Lipej et al., 2018). This fish was reported from the Gulf of Trieste (Northern Adriatic Sea) (Borme and Voltolina 2006; Lipej et al., 2018), from NCA off northern Cephalonia Island in 488 m depth (Mytilineou et al., 2013), and from the Aegean Sea, Turkey (Yapıcı, 2019).

Given all these features mentioned in other studies, it has been confirmed that the fish is a ribbonfish. However, although previous studies have reported records of this species in Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean and Aegean Seas; its presence in the Gulf of Antalya (Turkey) has been revealed for the first time by this research. With this article, a new species has been added to the diversity of fish living in the Gulf of Antalya.

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