



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Recent update on the distribution of alien and neonative fishes in the Aegean Sea

İlker Aydın¹ • Önder Yıldırım² • Kıvanç Topçuoğlu³ • Sercan Yapıcı^{4*}

¹ Ege University, Faculty of Fisheries, Department of Fishing Technology, 35100, İzmir, Türkiye

² Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Faculty of Fisheries, Department of Aquaculture, 48000, Muğla, Türkiye

³ Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Ula Ali Koçman Vocational School, 48000, Muğla, Türkiye

⁴ Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Faculty of Fisheries, Department of Marine-Inland Waters Sciences and Technology, 48000, Muğla, Türkiye

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:
Received: 06.10.2022
Received in revised form: 08.11.2022
Accepted: 08.11.2022
Available online: 22.12.2022

Keywords:
Gibraltar Strait
Suez Canal
Native species
Non-native species
Bioinvasion

ABSTRACT

The Mediterranean Sea is considered an aquatic biodiversity hotspot that hosts approximately 782 fish species and 72 of them are categorized as endemic. However, non-native species introductions that are of natural or human-mediated origin have posed a major threat to the biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea which is showing high rates of endemism. Here, we represent historical and recent updated data alien (*Champsodon nudivittis*, *Nemipterus randalli*, *Pterois miles*, *Scarus ghobban*, *Scomberomorus commerson*), neonative (*Seriola fasciata*, *Sphoeroides pachygaster*) fishes spreading on the Aegean Sea.

Please cite this paper as follows:

Aydın, İ., Yıldırım, Ö., Topçuoğlu, K., & Yapıcı, S. (2022). Recent update on the distribution of alien and neonative fishes in the Aegean Sea. *Marine Science and Technology Bulletin*, 11(4), 454-466. <https://doi.org/10.33714/masteb.1185291>

Introduction

In terms of marine bio-invasion, the Mediterranean Sea is considered a crossroads for non-native marine organisms that introduce via the Gibraltar Strait and the Suez Canal (Rilov & Galil, 2009; Edelist et al., 2012; Zenetos et al., 2012). The Mediterranean Sea hosts approximately 17000 species and

more than a third of them are endemic species classified as endangered, threatened, or vulnerable on the IUCN Red List (Coll et al., 2010). Although non-native species diversity displays sharp differences throughout the west-east axis of the Mediterranean Sea, the endemic and endangered taxa of the Mediterranean Sea have faced the invasion of the non-native species (Coll et al., 2010). The rate of influx of non-native

* Corresponding author

E-mail address: sercanyapici@mu.edu.tr (S. Yapıcı)



species classified as alien and neonative into the Mediterranean is affected by several vectors that such as ballast waters, water mass circulations, and increasing sea temperature (Bianchi, 2007). The fact that negative effects of invasive species are not limited to ecosystem services they also affect negatively socio-economic activities forces scientists and public authorities to close monitoring of new introductions/range expansions of non-native species.

Until today, Mediterranean marine biodiversity has gone altered by many thousands of species that have spread beyond their natural ranges because of intentionally or unintentionally human drivers. As well known, the temperature is the primary factor that determines the boundaries of the natural habitats of species, hence changing sea temperature level is the keystone causing to shift in the geographical range of aquatic organisms. This functional factor also affects migration patterns, seasonal activities, species interactions, and abundances of species (Walther et al., 2002). This continuing warming trend has enabled the introduction and expansion of thermophilic non-native species and transformed some of them into invasive. These non-native freshwater and marine species that are introduced directly or indirectly by human activity are an ever-increasing problem in the Mediterranean, such that the number of non-native species in Europe has been reported as 42% (Stranga & Katsanevakis, 2021).

In the present study, we aimed to present the recent distribution data related to alien and neonative fish species that are two sides of the same coin in the Mediterranean marine bio-invasion. We also believe that the results of this study will provide recent data for scientists, stakeholders, and public authorities on several topics such as reacting against alien species, distribution modelling, risk assessment protocols, and update of marine conservation actions.

Material and Methods

Alien Species

Champsodon nudivittis

On 30 March 2022, a single specimen was collected by bottom trawl at a depth of 70 m on a sandy-mud bottom in the Edremit Bay (North Aegean Sea). The identification of the specimen was following the instruction provided by Nemeth (1994). The specimen was deposited in Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University Faculty of Fisheries Museum.

Nemipterus randalli

On 17 July 2020, a specimen was captured from the Edremit Bay (North Aegean Sea), at a depth of 96 m. The identification of the specimen was following the instruction provided by Russell (1990). The specimen was deposited in the fish collection of the Fisheries Faculty, Ege University (ESFM-PIS/2021-01)

Pterois miles

On 05 February 2022, a single specimen was caught by trammel net from Edremit Bay (North Aegean Sea) at a depth of 30 m on rocky bottom. The identification of the specimen was following the instruction provided by Golani & Sonin (1992). The specimen was deposited in Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University Faculty of Fisheries Museum.

Scarus ghobban

On 28 September 2021, a single specimen was caught by fishing pot at a depth of 2 m on a sandy-mud bottom in the Gökova Bay (SE Aegean Sea). The identification of the specimen was following the instruction provided by Goren & Aronov (2002). The specimen was deposited in Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University Faculty of Fisheries Museum.

Scomberomorus commerson

On 03 March 2022, a single specimen was collected by trammel net at the 25 m in the Edremit Bay (North Aegean Sea). The identification of the specimen was following the instruction provided by Collette (2001).

Neonative Species

Seriola fasciata

On 10 October 2021, a single specimen was caught by trammel net at a depth of 30 m on a sandy-mud bottom in the Edremit Bay (North Aegean Sea). The identification of the specimen was following the instruction provided by Smith-Vaniz & Berry (1981). The specimen was deposited in Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University Faculty of Fisheries Museum.

Sphoeroides pachygaster

On 29 July 2020, one specimen was caught by bottom trawl at a depth of 93 m on a sandy and muddy bottom from the Edremit Bay (North Aegean Sea). The identification of the specimen was following the instruction provided by Smith & Heemstra (1986). The specimen was deposited in the fish

collection of Ege University, Fisheries Faculty (ESFM-PIS/2021-02).

Results

Alien Species

Champsodon nudivittis

Systematics:

Class: Actinopteri

Family: Champsodontidae Jordan & Snyder, 1902

Genus: *Champsodon* Günther, 1867

Champsodon nudivittis (Ogilby, 1895) (Figure 1a)

Diagnostic characteristics: Compressed body dark brown dorsally. Caudal lobes pale. Scaleless chin covered with melanophore spots. The breast was scaled. The maxilla extended beyond the eye (Nemeth, 1994).

Measurements (mm): Total length 112, standard length 94, pre-anal length 50.2, pre-dorsal length 35.1, pre-pectoral length 29.6, body depth 16.7, caudal peduncle depth 6.4, head length 28.7, eye diameter 4.8.

Distribution: The first Mediterranean record of *C. nudivittis* was given by Çiçek & Bilecenoğlu (2009) from eastern Mediterranean. The following records are in the Levantine-Aegean axis: Greece (Kalogirou & Corsini-Foka, 2012; Kousteni & Christidis, 2019) Israel (Goren et al., 2011), Lebanon (Bariche, 2010, 2011), Syria (Ali et al., 2017), Türkiye (Ergüden & Turan, 2011; Gökoğlu et al., 2011; Dalyan et al., 2012; Gökoğlu & Özvarol, 2013; Filiz et al., 2014; Akyol & Ünal, 2015; Aydın & Akyol, 2015; Kebapçıoğlu & Dereli, 2016; Yapıcı et al., 2016; Dalyan et al., 2021). The present study provides additional record for northernmost distribution of *C. nudivittis* in the Aegean Sea (Figure 2).

Nemipterus randalli

Systematics:

Class: Actinopteri

Family: Nemipteridae Regan, 1913

Genus: *Nemipterus* Swainson, 1839

Nemipterus randalli Russell, 1986 (Figure 1b)

Diagnostic characteristics: Mouth terminal; five pairs of small recurved canine teeth on the premaxilla. Body covered with big ctenoid scales. Long and pointed pectoral fins, reaching beyond the level of anal fin origin. Caudal fin with a filamentous extension on the upper lobe. Upper part of the body is pinkish while ventral surface is silvery. Three or four pale yellow stripes on the lateral side. Three or four pale yellow

stripes exist on the lateral side. The pectoral base includes a golden blotch. The dorsal fin pales bluish, upper margin edged with red, with yellow striped. The anal fin colour is pale bluish and includes a narrow yellow medial band (Russell, 1990).

Measurements (mm): Total length 187, standard length 153, fork length 167, pre-anal length 91.8, pre-dorsal length 42.8, pre-pectoral length 44.1, body depth 47.8, caudal peduncle depth 14.9, head length 44.3, eye diameter 12.6.

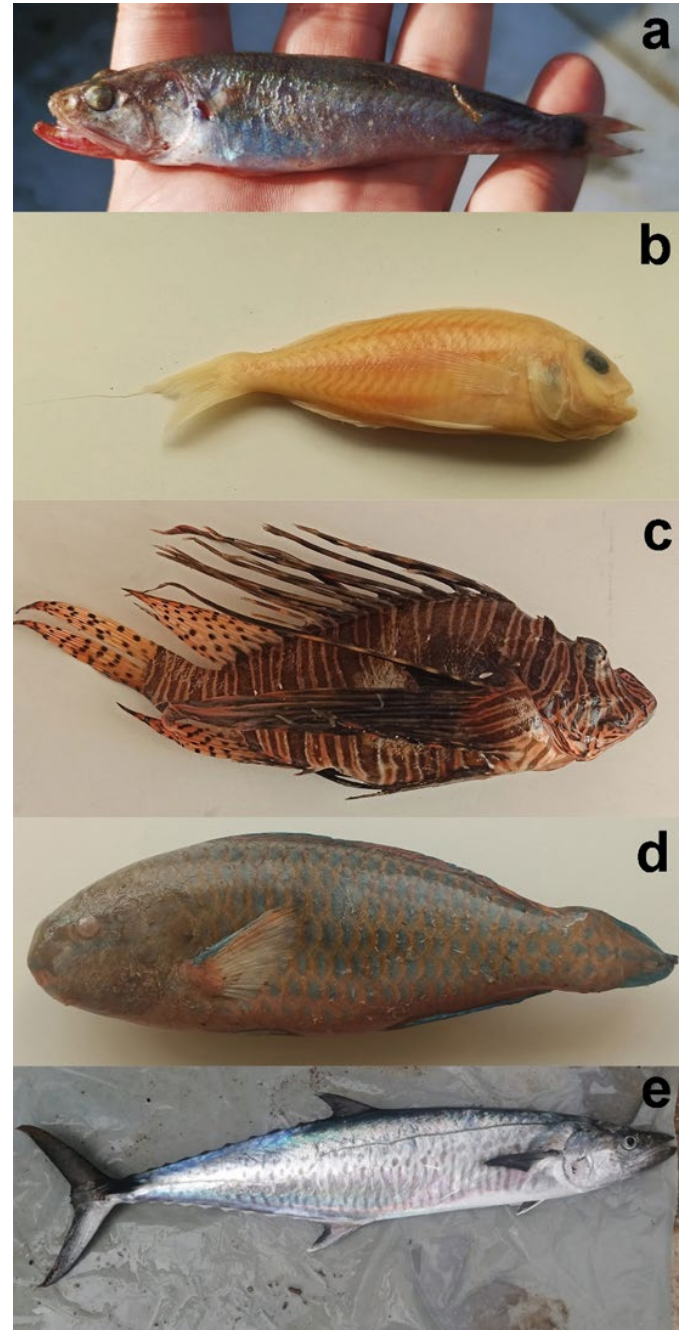


Figure 1. Alien species in the Aegean Sea. A) *Champsodon nudivittis*, B) *Nemipterus randalli*, C) *Pterois miles*, D) *Scarus ghobban*, E) *Scomberomorus commerson*

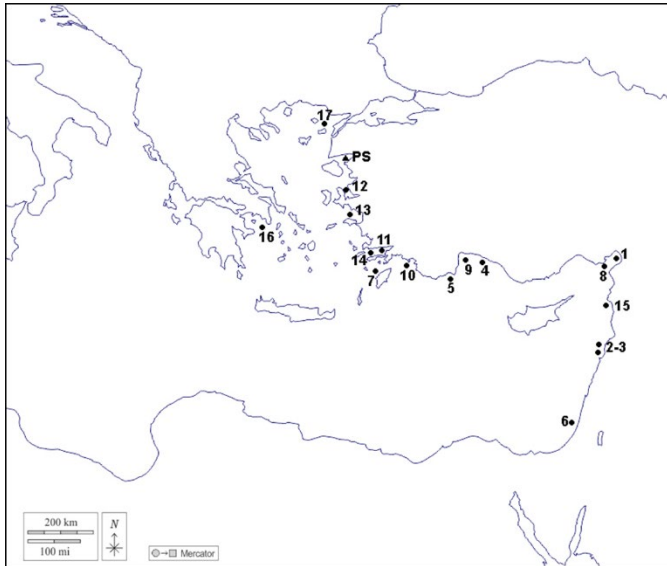


Figure 2. *Champsodon nudivittis* recordings from the Aegean-Levantine Sea up to date: ¹Çiçek & Bilecenoğlu (2009), ²Bariche (2010), ³Bariche (2011), ⁴Gökoğlu et al. (2011), ⁵Erguden & Turan (2011), ⁶Goren et al. (2011), ⁷Kalogirou & Corsini-Foka (2012), ⁸Dalyan et al. (2012), ⁹Gökoğlu & Özvarol (2013), ¹⁰Filiz et al. (2014), ¹¹Akyol & Ünal (2015), ¹²Aydın & Akyol (2015), ¹³Kebapçioğlu & Dereli (2016), ¹⁴Yapıcı et al. (2016), ¹⁵Ali et al. (2017), ¹⁶Kousteni & Christidis (2019), ¹⁷Dalyan et al. (2021), ^{PS}Present study

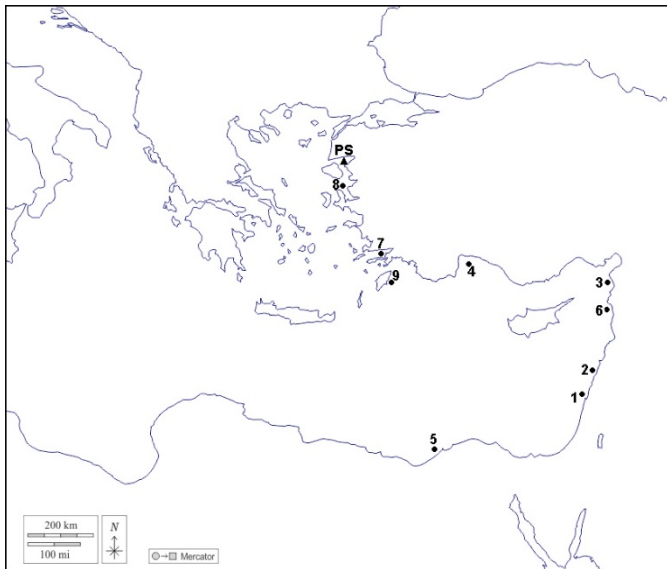


Figure 3. *Nemipterus randalli* recordings from the Aegean-Levantine Sea up to date: ¹Golani & Sonin (2006), ²Lelli et al. (2008), ³Bilecenoğlu & Russell (2008), ⁴Gökoğlu et al. (2009), ⁵Halim & Rizkalla (2011), ⁶Ali et al. (2013), ⁷Gülşahin & Kara (2013), ⁸Aydın & Akyol (2017), ⁹Kampouris et al. (2019), ^{PS}Present study.

Distribution: *N. randalli* was first reported from Israeli coasts by Golani & Sonin (2006) in the Mediterranean. The following records are in the Levantine-Aegean axis: Egypt

(Halim & Rizkalla, 2011), Greece (Kampouris et al., 2019), Lebanon (Lelli et al., 2008), Syria (Ali et al., 2013), Türkiye (Bilecenoğlu & Russell, 2008; Gökoğlu et al., 2009; Gülşahin & Kara, 2013; Aydın & Akyol, 2017). The present study provides the northernmost occurrence of *N. randalli* in the Aegean Sea (Figure 3).

Pterois miles

Systematics:

Class: Actinopteri

Family: Scorpaenidae Risso, 1827

Genus: *Pterois* Oken, 1817

Pterois miles (Bennett, 1828) (Fig. 1c)

Diagnostic characteristics: Moderately compressed body is reddish to tan and numerous thin dark bars on body and head vertically; median fins covered with visible small spots. Long and venomous dorsal spines longer than body (Golani & Sonin, 1992).

Measurements (mm): Total length 244, standard length 181, pre-anal length 124, pre-dorsal length 53.1, pre-pectoral length 57.3, body depth 64.1, caudal peduncle depth 20.0, head length 60.4, eye diameter 12.0, snout length 18.0

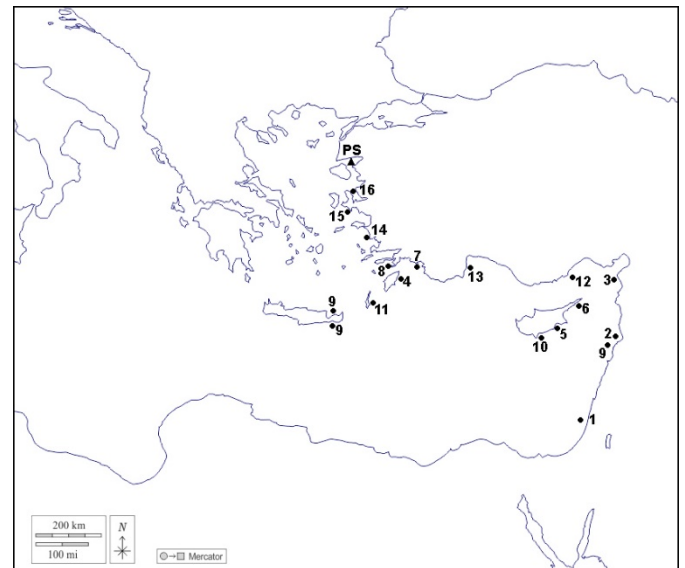


Figure 4. *Pterois miles* recordings from the Aegean-Levantine Sea up to date: ¹Golani & Sonin (1992), ²Bariche et al. (2013), ³Turan et al. (2014a), ⁴Crocetta et al. (2015), ⁵Iglésias & Frotté (2015), ⁶Oray et al. (2015), ⁷Turan & Öztürk (2015), ⁸Bilge et al. (2016), ⁹Dailianis et al. (2016), ¹⁰Jimenez et al. (2016), ¹¹Mytilineou et al. (2016), ¹²Yağlıoğlu & Ayaş (2016), ¹³Özgür Özbek et al. (2017), ¹⁴Yapıcı (2018), ¹⁵Özgül (2020), ¹⁶Oruç et al. (2022), ^{PS}Present study

Distribution: *P. miles* was first reported by Golani & Sonin (1992) in the Mediterranean. The following records are: Cyprus

(Iglesias & Frotte, 2015; Oray et al., 2015; Jimenez et al., 2016), Greece (Crocetta et al., 2015; Dailianis et al., 2016; Mytilineou et al., 2016), Lebanon (Bariche et al., 2013), Türkiye (Turan et al., 2014a; Turan & Öztürk, 2015; Bilge et al., 2016; Yağlıoğlu & Ayaş 2016; Özgür Özbek et al., 2017; Yapıcı, 2018; Özgül, 2020; Oruç et al., 2022). The present study indicates the northernmost occurrence of *P. miles* in the Aegean Sea (Figure 4).

Scarus ghobban

Systematics:

Class: Actinopteri

Family: Scaridae Rafinesque, 1810

Genus: *Scarus* Forsskål, 1775

Scarus ghobban Forsskål, 1775 (Figure 1d)

Diagnostic characteristics: The body was dorsally brightly salmon pink with green-blue marks and stripes and ventrally was brownish. Scales were turquoise-blue with brown margins. The head was covered by irregular bands of turquoise-blue to brownish colour. The coloration of the lower and upper margins of the pectoral and pelvic fins was turquoise-blue while the middle part included a longitudinal band of reddish-brown (Goren & Aronov, 2002).

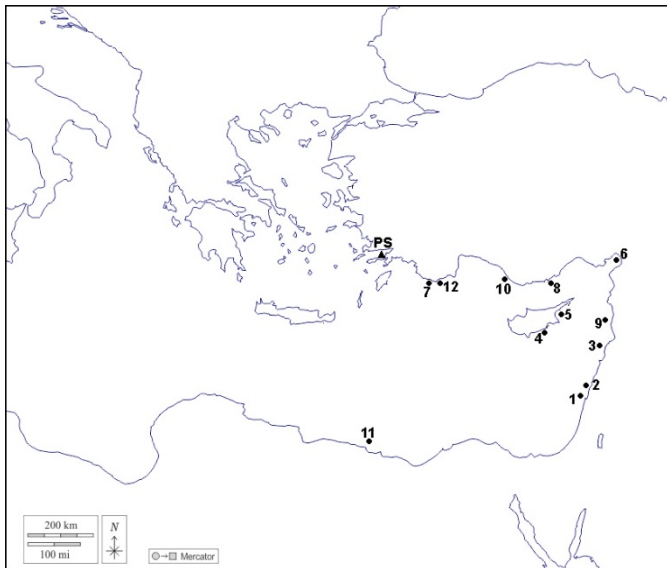


Figure 5. *Scarus ghobban* recordings from the Aegean-Levantine Sea up to date: ¹Goren & Aronov (2002), ²Golani & Levy (2005), ³Bariche & Saad (2008), ⁴Ioannou et al. (2010), ⁵Filiz & Sevingel (2014), ⁶Turan et al. (2014b), ⁷Karachle et al. (2016), ⁸Yağlıoğlu & Ayaş (2016), ⁹Soliman et al. (2018), ¹⁰Ergüden et al. (2018), ¹¹Al Mabruk et al. (2020), ¹²Tüney-Kızılkaya & Akyol (2020), ^{PS}Present study

Measurements (mm): Total length 279, standard length 230, fork length 273, pre-anal length 138.8, pre-dorsal length 75.1, pre-pectoral length 68.1, body depth 83.2, caudal peduncle

depth 33.0, head length 70.8, eye diameter 8.3, snout length 24.5.

Distribution: Its first Mediterranean record was given from Israeli coasts by Goren & Aronov (2002). The following records are in the Levantine-Aegean axis: Cyprus (Ioannou et al., 2010; Filiz & Sevingel, 2014), Greece (Karachle et al., 2016), Israel (Golani & Levy, 2005) Lebanon (Bariche & Saad, 2005), Egypt (Al Mabruk et al., 2020), Syria (Soliman et al., 2018), Türkiye (Turan et al., 2014b; Yağlıoğlu & Ayaş, 2016; Ergüden et al., 2018; Tüney-Kızılkaya & Akyol, 2020). The present study provides the northernmost record of *S. ghobban* in the Aegean Sea (Figure 5).

Scomberomorus commerson

Systematics:

Class: Actinopteri

Family: Scombridae Rafinesque, 1815

Genus: *Scomberomorus* Lacepède, 1801

Scomberomorus commerson (Lacepède, 1800) (Figure 1e)

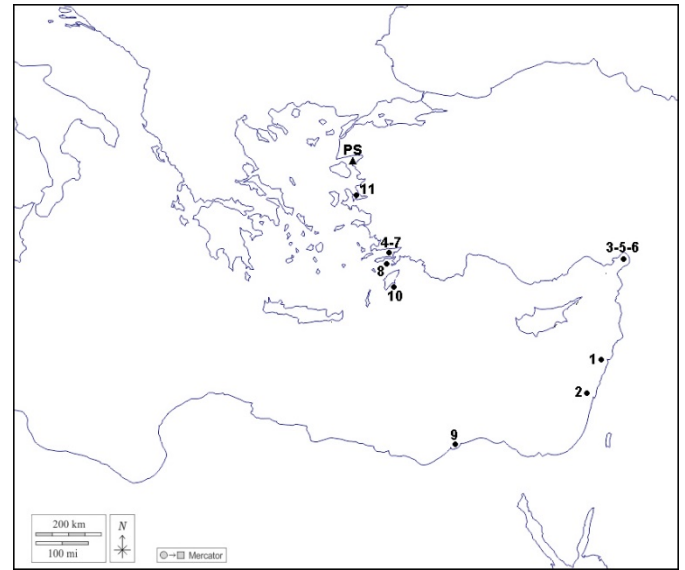


Figure 6. *Scomberomorus commerson* recordings from the Aegean-Levantine Sea up to date: ¹George & Athanassiou (1965), ²Ben-Tuvia (1971), ³Gücü et al. (1994), ⁴Buhan et al. (1997), ⁵Başusta & Erdem (2000), ⁶Torcu & Mater (2000), ⁷Öğretmen et al. (2005), ⁸Öz et al. (2007), ⁹Bakhoum (2007), ¹⁰Corsini-Foka & Kalogirou (2008), ¹¹Akyol & Tosunoğlu (2019), ^{PS}Present study. (*The first Mediterranean record (Hornell, 1935) could not be shown on the map because the coordinate information could not be reached)

Diagnostic characteristics: Body shape elongated and moderately strongly compressed. The posterior margin of the eye intersects with the upper jaw. Two dorsal fins, the first of which is longer than the second. Finlets originating after the

second dorsal fin reach out to the back end of the body. Lateral line abruptly bent downward below end of second dorsal fin. The dorsal side of the body is iridescent blue-grey and covered with distinctive thin-wavy vertical bands (Collette, 2001).

Measurements (mm): Detailed measurements could not be realized since the fisherman despatched a specimen to sell. However, he stated that the specimen was 80 cm in total length and weighed ~ 3 kg.

Distribution: Its first Mediterranean record was given from Palestine by Hornell (1935). The following records are in the Levantine-Aegean axis: Egypt (Bakhom, 2007), Greece (Corsini-Foka & Kalogirou, 2008), Israel (Ben-Tuvia, 1971), Lebanon (George & Athanassiou, 1965), Türkiye (Gücü et al., 1994; Buhan et al., 1997; Başusta & Erdem, 2000; Torcu & Mater, 2000; Öğretmen et al., 2005; Öz et al., 2007; Akyol & Tosunoğlu, 2019). The present study provides the northernmost record of *S. commerson* in the Aegean Sea (Figure 6).

Neonative species

Seriola fasciata

Systematics:

Class: Actinopteri

Family: Carangidae Rafinesque, 1815

Genus: *Seriola* Cuvier, 1816

Seriola fasciata (Bloch, 1793) (Figure 7a)

Diagnostic characteristics: Body shape is elongated, moderately deep, somewhat compressed, and also covered with small cycloid scales. The body is dark olive dorsally, sides lighter, and belly silvery. Two dorsal fins, first lower than second. A dark band exists between the eye and the anterior of the dorsal fin. Seven dark irregular and broken bands throughout the body; 8th band is small and dark, at the end of the caudal peduncle (Smith-Vaniz & Berry, 1981).

Measurements (mm): Total length 210, standard length 161, fork length 182, pre-anal length 94.5, pre-dorsal length 54.8, pre-pectoral length 49.8, body depth 64.3, caudal peduncle depth 9.5, head length 36.7, eye diameter 10.0, snout length 17.3

Distribution: Its first record in the Mediterranean was reported by Massutí & Stefanescu (1993) from Balearic Island. The following records are in the Levantine-Aegean axis: Greece (Corsini et al., 2006), Israel (Sonin et al., 2009), Syria (Jawad et al., 2015), Türkiye (Kapiris et al., 2014; Doğdu et al., 2019; Yapici & Filiz, 2020; Akyol & Ünal, 2021), Egypt (Stamouli et al., 2017). The present paper provides the northernmost record and of *S. fasciata* for the Aegean Sea (Figure 8).



Figure 7. A) *Seriola fasciata* B) *Sphoeroides pachygaster*

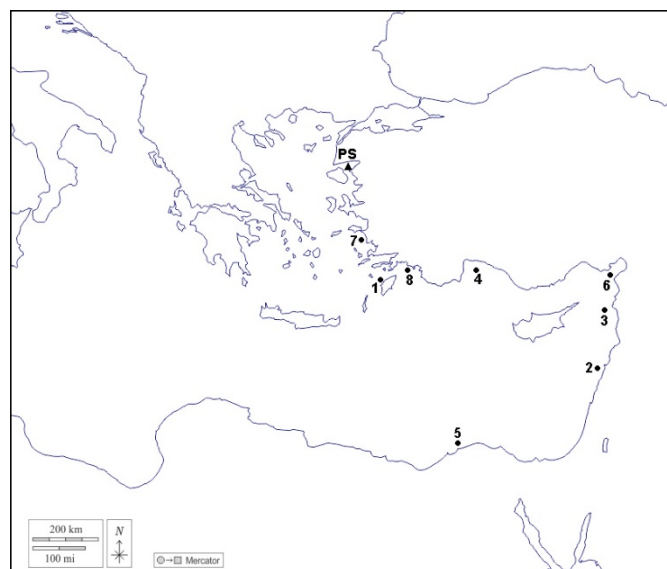


Figure 8. *Seriola fasciata* recordings from the Aegean-Levantine Sea up to date: ¹Corsini et al. (2006), ²Sonin et al. (2009), ³Jawad et al. (2015), ⁴Kapiris et al. (2014), ⁵Stamouli et al. (2017), ⁶Doğdu et al. (2019), ⁷Yapıcı & Filiz (2020), ⁸Akyol & Ünal (2021), ^{PS}Present study

Sphoeroides pachygaster

Systematics:

Class: Actinopteri

Family: Tetraodontidae Bonaparte, 1831

Genus: *Sphoeroides* Anonymus [Lacepède], 1798

Sphoeroides pachygaster (Müller & Troschel, 1848) (Figure 7b)

Diagnostic characteristics: Body compressed and inflatable. Scaled absent. One lateral line. Skin covered by small spines often present on back and belly. Caudal fin truncated or

rounded. Two nostrils on each side of snout. Body of the dorsal surface and the flanks is greyish to olive green with many pale dots and ventral side is whitish (Smith & Heemstra, 1986).

Measurements (mm): Total length 162, standard length 139, pre-anal length 114, pre-dorsal length 106, pre-pectoral length 57.9, body depth 48.2, caudal peduncle depth 20.0, head length 51.3, eye diameter 11.0.

Distribution: The first Mediterranean record of *S. pachygaster* was given by Oliver (1981) from Balearic Island. The following records are in the Levantine-Aegean axis: Cyprus (Katsanevakis et al., 2009; Akbora et al., 2021), Egypt (Farrag et al., 2016), Greece (Zachariou-Mamalinga & Corsini, 1994; Peristeraki et al., 2006; Dailianis et al., 2016), Israel (Golani, 1996), Lebanon (Gerovasileiou et al., 2017), Syria (Abdul Rahman et al., 2014) and Türkiye (Eryılmaz et al., 2003; Eleftheriou et al., 2011; Akyol & Aydın, 2017; Akbora et al., 2021). The present study provides additional record for northern distribution of *S. pachygaster* in the Aegean Sea (Figure 9).

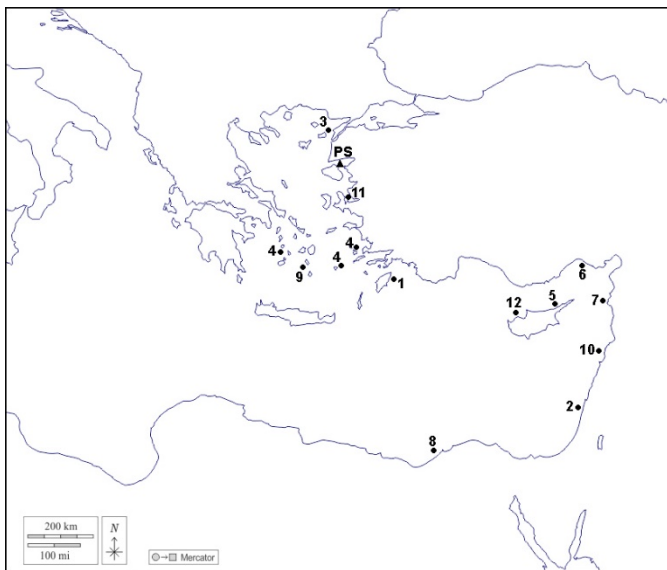


Figure 9. *Spherooides pachygaster* recordings from the Aegean-Levantine Sea up to date: ¹Zachariou-Mamalinga & Corsini (1994), ²Golani (1996), ³Eryılmaz et al. (2003), ⁴Peristeraki et al. (2006), ⁵Katsanevakis et al. (2009), ⁶Eleftheriou et al. (2011), ⁷Abdul Rahman et al. (2014), ⁸Farrag et al. (2016), ⁹Dailianis et al. (2016), ¹⁰Gerovasileiou et al. (2017), ¹¹Aydın & Akyol (2017), ¹²Akbora et al. (2021), ^{PS}Present study

Discussion

Invasion processes are controlled by the interaction between the characteristics of the invasive species and the conditions of the receiving environment and so are species-specific. Biodiversity of the Mediterranean that includes high

endemism has been remodelled by non-native species introduced from the Gibraltar Strait and Suez Canal (Coll et al., 2010). Even though all non-native Atlantic and Lessepsian species are termed alien species, the invasion processes actually differ from each other. Therefore, range-expanding non-native species were classified into two groups as alien and neontive species (Essl et al., 2019). According to this definition, alien species directly exploit human agency (human-made canals, tunnels) in their range expansions, while neontive species may use human-induced changes of the biophysical environment to expand their ranges, however, do not use a directly human agency, intentional or unintentional. This classification clarifies that alien species (Lessepsian species) are often reported in unexpected areas distant from their native range and neontive (Atlantic species) are usually observed in new areas close to their native range.

There is a marked difference in the diversity of non-native species between the western and the eastern basin in the Mediterranean, however, this difference tends to decrease due to changes in the physicochemical conditions in the Mediterranean Sea. Because remodelling of the sea currents in the Mediterranean has given the opportunity to reduce or eliminate the adaptation phase of non-native species. Considering the historical spread of invasive species in the Mediterranean, the 38th parallel had considered a breaking point for the invasion because non-native species (especially Lessepsian migrants) could not appear, due primarily to the cold-water temperature (Papaconstantinou, 1990). Additionally, most scientists have suggested that even though a taxonomic richness of the alien biota, there is not essentially an expansion of the Lessepsian province above the 38th parallel (Bilecenoğlu, 2016). Sea surface temperature (SST) of the Aegean Sea that involves the 38th parallel mainly depends on the exchange between cold/fresh Black Sea and warm/saline Levantine basin (Poulain et al., 2012).

However, the effects of global warming have altered the borders of existent sea currents in the Mediterranean. In particular, water-mass modifications in the Mediterranean Transient (EMT) have caused to penetration of a warm-water masses (Levantine Surface Water and Levantine Intermediate Water) into northern colder sectors of the Aegean Sea. Similar changes are also observed in the Atlantic Ocean, which connects with the Mediterranean Sea via the Strait of Gibraltar. Biton (2020) declared that water mass that flows from the Mediterranean Sea into the Atlantic (Mediterranean Overflow Water - MOW) has been caused the eastern Atlantic including the Strait of Gibraltar to be as saltier (~0.36 psu), warmer

(1.8°C), and so changed the characteristics of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). Effects of transport of warm water mass that Levantine origin to the northern sectors and the equalization trend of temperature and salinity between the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean on the introduction and dispersal of subtropical and tropical alien and nonnative species are already observed throughout the Mediterranean (Katsanevakis et al., 2020; Dalyan et al., 2021). On the other hand, studies on the effect of environmental factors on the distribution of demersal Lessepsian species have not detected a correlation between temperature and dispersal mechanism. According to the results, only *N. randalli* had a positive correlation with water temperature. However, based on the results of the present study, it could be asserted that *N. randalli* is experiencing the temperature-dependent integration phase of the invasion. Similarly, Poursanidis et al. (2022) simulated the distribution of *P. miles* in the Mediterranean via the Bayesian framework and outputs showed this species would invade and settle whole the Aegean coasts for the 2040-2050 period. The northernmost observation of *P. miles* presented in this study proves the accuracy of the simulation outputs.

The process and success of the invasion in the Mediterranean cannot be completely attributed to the increase in SST, but it is also obvious that the increase in SST shortens the invasion processes and increases the success of the invasion. Because considering the distribution of non-native species in the Mediterranean (except *Fistularia commersonii*), veteran species took longer to settle and spread than newly introduced species. For example, invasion momentum in the Levant-Aegean axis is $\sim 290 \text{ km/y}^{-1}$ for *N. randalli* and 15 km/y^{-1} for *Siganus luridus*. In recent years, many thermophilic non-native and native taxa reported on northern Aegean coasts clearly reflect remodelling biodiversity in the Mediterranean (Katsanevakis et al., 2020; Dalyan et al., 2021; Esposito et al., 2021).

Conclusion

Non-native species that are directed by climate change and other human-induced vectors and native species are an integral part of biodiversity. Consequently, monitoring these species will enable scientists and public authorities to understand current/possible changes and their long-term effects on biodiversity.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank captains Hasan BİRAN and Uğur Ali BİRAN of the F/V “DÜLGER” for supporting the survey. We also thank Mr. Yüksel TÜRK for providing some specimens as part of citizen science. Some data in this study were obtained in the project funded by Ege University Scientific Research Projects Coordination (2017/SÜF/005).

Compliance With Ethical Standards

Authors' Contributions

İA: Designed the study, provided the data.

ÖY: Provided the data.

KT: Provided the data.

SY: Designed the study, wrote the first version of manuscript.

All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

Ethical Approval

For this type of study, formal consent is not required.

References

- Abdul Rahman, W., Galiya, M., & Ali, A. K. (2014). First record of the blunthead puffer *Spherooides pachygaster* (Osteichthyes: Tetraodontidae) in Syrian marine waters (Eastern Mediterranean). *Marine Biodiversity Records*, 7. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s1755267214000244>
- Akbora, H. D., Snape, R., Ayas, D., & Çiçek, B. A. (2021). The first substantiated record of blunthead puffer *Spherooides pachygaster* (Müller and Troschel, 1848), from the coast of Northern Cyprus (eastern Mediterranean). *Marine Science and Technology Bulletin*, 10(1), 1-7. <https://doi.org/10.33714/masteb.722547>
- Akyol, O., & Ünal, V. (2015). Occurrence of the Indo-Pacific *Champsodon nudivittis* (Perciformes, Champsodontidae) in the Bay of Gökova (Southern Aegean Sea, Turkey). *Turkish Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*, 15(1), 187-190.
- Akyol, O., & Aydın, I. (2017). Occurrence of blunthead *Spherooides pachygaster* (Müller and Troschel, 1848) Tetraodontidae in north eastern Aegean Sea, Izmir Bay, Turkey. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 33, 524-526. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jai.13277>

- Akyol, O., & Tosunoğlu, Z. (2019). On the occurrence of a lessepsian immigrant *Scomberomorus commerson* (Scombridae) in Izmir Bay (Aegean Sea, Turkey). *Ege Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*, 36(1), 81-84. <https://doi.org/10.12714/egejfas.2019.36.1.10>
- Akyol, O., & Ünal, V. (2021). On the occurrence of *Seriola fasciata* (Carangidae) in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. *Annales, Series Historia Naturalis*, 31(2), 217-222. <https://doi.org/10.19233/ASHN.2021.26>
- Al Mabruk, S. A. A., Rizgalla, J., Giovos, I., & Bariche, M. (2020). Social media reveals the first records of the invasive lionfish *Pterois miles* (Bennett, 1828) and parrotfish *Scarus ghobban* Forsskål, 1775 from Egypt (Mediterranean Sea). *BioInvasions Records*, 9(3), 574-579. <https://doi.org/10.3391/bir.2020.9.3.13>
- Ali, M., Saad, A., Reynaud, C., & Capapé, C. (2013). First records of Randall's threadfin bream *Nemipterus randalli* (Osteichthyes: Nemipteridae) off the Syrian coast (Eastern Mediterranean). *Annales, Series Historia Naturalis*, 23(2), 119-124.
- Ali, M., Saad, A., Jabour, R., Rafrafi-Nouira, S., & Capapé, C. (2017). First record of nakedband gaper *Champsodon nudivittis* (Osteichthyes: Champsodontidae) off the Syrian Coast (Eastern Mediterranean). *Journal of Ichthyology*, 57, 161-163. <https://doi.org/10.1134/S0032945217010015>
- Aydın, İ., & Akyol, O. (2015). First record of an Indo-Pacific gaper, *Champsodon vorax* (Actinopterygii: Perciformes: Champsodontidae), from the Aegean Sea, Turkey. *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 45(2), 207-209. <https://doi.org/10.3750/AIP2014.45.2.12>
- Aydın, I., & Akyol, O. (2017). Occurrence of *Nemipterus randalli* Russell, 1986 (Nemipteridae) off Izmir Bay, Turkey. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 33(3), 533-534. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jai.13331>
- Bakhoun, S. A. (2007). Diet overlap of immigrant narrow-barred Spanish mackerel *Scomberomorus commerson* (Lac., 1802) and the largehead hairtail ribbonfish *Trichiurus lepturus* (L., 1758) in the Egyptian Mediterranean coast. *Animal Biodiversity and Conservation*, 30(2), 147-160.
- Bariche, M. & Saad, M. (2005). Settlement of the lessepsian blue-barred parrotfish *Scarus ghobban* (Teleostei: Scaridae) in the eastern Mediterranean. *Marine Biodiversity Records*, 1, e5. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755267205000497>
- Bariche, M. (2010). *Champsodon vorax* (Teleostei: Champsodontidae), a new alien fish in the Mediterranean. *Aqua. International Journal of Ichthyology*, 16(4), 197-200.
- Bariche, M. (2011). First record of the cube boxfish *Ostracion cubicus* (Ostraciidae) and additional records of *Champsodon vorax* (Champsodontidae), from the Mediterranean. *Aqua. International Journal of Ichthyology*, 17(4), 181-184.
- Bariche, M., Torres, M., & Azzurro, E. (2013). The presence of the invasive lionfish *Pterois miles* in the Mediterranean Sea. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 14(2), 292-294.
- Başusta, N., & Erdem, Ü. (2000). A study on the pelagic and demersal fishes of Iskenderun Bay. *Turkish Journal of Zoology*, 24 (Suppl), 1-19.
- Ben-Tuvia, A. (1971). Revised list of the Mediterranean fishes of Israel. *Israel Journal of Zoology*, 20, 1-39.
- Bianchi, C. N. (2007). Biodiversity issues for the forthcoming tropical Mediterranean Sea. *Hydrobiologia*, 580, 7-21.
- Bilecenoğlu, M., & Russell, B. C. (2008). Record of *Nemipterus randalli* Russell, 1986 (Nemipteridae) from Iskenderun Bay, Turkey. *Cybium*, 32, 279-280.
- Bilecenoğlu, M. (2016). Demersal lessepsian fish assemblage structure in the northern Levant and Aegean Seas. *Journal of the Black Sea/Mediterranean Environment*, 22(1), 46-59.
- Bilge, G., Filiz, H., Yapıcı, S., & Gülşahin, A. (2016). On the occurrence of the devil firefish *Pterois miles* (Scorpaenidae), from the southern Aegean Sea with an elaborate occurrence in the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. *HydroMediT 2016, 2nd International Congress on Applied Ichthyology and Aquatic Environment*, Messolonghi, Greece.
- Biton, E. (2020). Possible implications of sea level changes for species migration through the Suez Canal. *Scientific Reports*, 10, 21195. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-78313-2>
- Buhan, E., Yılmaz, H., Morkan, Y., Büke, E., & Yüksek, A. (1997). A new potential catch for Güllük Bay and Gökova Bay: *Scomberomorus commerson* (Lacepède, 1800) (Pisces: Teleostei). *Akdeniz Balıkçılık Kongresi, Bildiri Kitabı*, İzmir, Türkiye, pp. 937-944.
- Çiçek, E., & Bilecenoğlu, M. (2009). A new alien fish in the Mediterranean Sea: *Champsodon nudivittis* (Actinopterygii: Perciformes: Champsodontidae). *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 39(1), 67-69.

- Coll, M., Piroddi, C., Steenbeek, J., Kaschner, K., & Ben Rais Lasram, F., et al. (2010). The biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea: estimates, patterns, and threats. *PLoS One*, 5(8), e11842. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0011842>
- Collette, B. B. (2001). Scombridae. Tunas (also, albacore, bonitos, mackerels, seerfishes, and wahoo), In Carpenter, K.E. & Niem, V. (Ed), *FAO species identification guide for fishery purposes. The living marine resources of the Western Central Pacific. Vol. 6. Bony fishes part 4 (Labridae to Latimeriidae), estuarine crocodiles* (pp. 3721-3756). FAO Rome.
- Corsini, M., Margies, P., Kondilatos, G., & Economidis, P. E. (2006). Three new exotic fish records from the SE Aegean Greek waters. *Scientia Marina*, 70, 319–323.
- Corsini-Foka, M., & Kalogirou, S. (2008). On the finding of the IndoPacific fish *Scomberomorus commerson* in Rhodes (Greece). *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 9(1), 167-172.
- Crocetta, F., Agius, D., Balistreri, P., Bariche, M., & Bayhan, Y., et al. (2015). New Mediterranean Biodiversity Records (October 2015). *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 16(3), 682–702.
- Dailianis, T., Akyol, O., Babali, N., Bariche, M., & Crocetta, F., et al. (2016). New Mediterranean Biodiversity Records (July 2016). *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 17(2), 608–626.
- Dalyan, C., Yemişken E., & Eryılmaz, L. (2012). A new record of gaper (*Champsodon capensis* Regan, 1908) in the Mediterranean Sea. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 28(5), 834-835. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1439-0426.2012.02019.x>
- Dalyan, C., Gonulal, O., Kesici, N. B., & Yapici, S. (2021). The northernmost record of *Champsodon nudivittis* (Ogilby, 1895) in the Mediterranean Sea. *Aquatic Sciences and Engineering*, 36(2), 16-19. <https://doi.org/10.26650/ASE2020742885>
- Doğdu, S. A., Sakallı, U., Gürlek, M. & Turan, C. (2019). The first record of the lesser amberjack *Seriola fasciata* (Bloch, 1793) in the Çevlik coast of Turkey, Eastern Mediterranean Sea. *Biharean Biologist*, 13(1), 55–57.
- Edelist, D., Rilov, G., Golani, D., Carlton, J. T., & Spanier, E. (2012). Restructuring the Sea: profound shifts in the world's most invaded marine ecosystem. *Diversity and Distributions*, 19, 69–77.
- Eleftheriou, A., Anagnostopoulou–Visilia, E., Anastasopoulou, E., Ates, A., & Bachari, N. I., et al. (2011). New Mediterranean Biodiversity Records (December 2011). *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 12(2), 491–508.
- Ergüden, D. & Turan, C. (2011). Occurrence of the nakedband gaper, *Champsodon nudivittis* (Ogilby, 1895) (Osteichthyes: Champsodontidae), in Finike Bay, eastern Mediterranean, Turkey. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 27(6), 1397–1398.
- Ergüden, D., Bayhan, Y. K., Alagöz-Ergüden, S., & Altun, A. (2018). Range extension of blue-barred parrotfish *Scarus ghobban* Forsskal, 1775 along the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. *Acta Biologica Turcica*, 31(3), 82–85.
- Eryılmaz, L., Özuluğ, M., & Meriç, N. (2003). The Smooth Pufferfish, *Sphoeroides pachygaster* (Müller & Troschel, 1848) (Teleostei: Tetraodontidae), new to the Northern Aegean Sea. *Zoology in the Middle East*, 28(1), 125-126.
- Esposito, G., Prearo, M., Menconi, V., Mugetti, D., & Meloni, D., et al. (2021). Northward Spread of the Parrotfish *Sparisoma cretense* (Teleostei: Scaridae) in the Mediterranean Sea: An Update on Current Distribution with Two New Records from Sardinia. *Journal of Marine Science and Engineering*, 9(5), 536. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jmse9050536>
- Essl, F., Dullinger, S., Genovesi, P., Hulme, P. E. & Jeschke, J. M. et al. (2019). A conceptual framework for range expanding species that track human-induced environmental change. *Bioscience*, 69, 908–919.
- Farrag, M. M. S., El-Haweet, A. K., Akel, E. H. Kh., & Moustafa, M. A. (2016). Occurrence of pufferfishes (Tetraodontidae) in the eastern Mediterranean, Egyptian coast – filling in the gap. *BioInvasions Records*, 5, 47–54.
- Filiz, H., Akçınar, S. C., & Irmak, E. (2014). Occurrence, length-weight and length-length relationships of *Champsodon nudivittis* (Ogilby, 1895) in the Aegean Sea. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 30(2), 415–417. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jai.12216>
- Filiz, H. & Sevingel, N. (2014). A new record of the blue-barred parrotfish, *Scarus ghobban* (Actinopterygii: Scaridae), from the coastal waters of Cyprus. *Zoology in the Middle East*, 60(3), 281-282. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09397140.2014.944436>
- George, C. J., & Athanassiou, V. A. (1965). On the occurrence of *Scomberomorus commersoni* (Lacépède) in St. George Bay, Lebanon. *Doriana, Annali del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale Giacomo Doria*, 4(157), 237-294.

- Gerovasileiou, V., Akel, E., Akyol, O., Alongi, G., & Azevedo, F. et al. (2017). New Mediterranean Biodiversity Records (July, 2017). *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 18(2), 355–384.
- Gökoglu, M., Güven, O., Balci, B., Çolak, H., & Golani, D. (2009). First records of *Nemichthys scolopaceus* and *Nemipterus randalli* and second record of *Apterichthys caecus* from Antalya Bay, southern Turkey. *Marine Biodiversity Records*, 2, 29. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S175526720800033X>
- Gökoglu, M., & Özvarol, Y. (2013). Additional records of *Champsodon vorax* and *Champsodon capensis* (Actinopterygii: Perciformes: Champsodontidae) from the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 43(1), 79-82.
- Gökoglu, M., Ünlüsayın, M., Balcı, B. A., Özvarol, Y., & Çolak, H. (2011). Two alien fish in the Gulf of Antalya: *Apogon queketti* Gilchrist, 1903 (Apogonidae) and *Champsodon nudivittis* (Ogilby, 1895) (Champsodontidae). *Zoology in the Middle East*, 54(1), 138–140. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09397140.2011.10648888>
- Golani, D., & Sonin, O. (1992). New records of the Red Sea fishes, *Pterois miles* (Scorpaenidae) and *Pteragogus pelycus* (Labridae) from the eastern Mediterranean Sea. *Japanese Journal of Ichthyology*, 39(2), 167-169.
- Golani, D. (1996). The marine ichthyofauna of the eastern Levant- History, inventory and characterization. *Israel Journal of Zoology*, 42, 15–55.
- Golani, D., & Sonin, O. (2006). The Japanese threadfin bream *Nemipterus japonicus*, a new Indo-Pacific fish in the Mediterranean Sea. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 68, 940-943. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.0022-1112.2006.00961.x>
- Golani, D., & Levy, Y. (2005). New records and rare occurrences of fish species from the Mediterranean coast of Israel. *Zoology in the Middle East*, 36(1), 27-32. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09397140.2005.10638124>
- Goren, M., & Aronov, A. (2002). First record of the Indo-Pacific Parrot fish *Scarus ghobban* in the eastern Mediterranean. *Cybiu*, 26, 239-240.
- Goren, M., Stern, N., Galil, B. S., & Diamant, A. (2011). On the occurrence of the Indo-Pacific *Champsodon nudivittis* (Ogilby, 1985) (Perciformes, Champsodontidae) from the Mediterranean coast of Israel, and the presence of the species in the Red Sea. *Aquatic Invasions*, 6, 115–117.
- Gücü, A. C., Bingel, F., Avsar, D., & Uysal, N. (1994). Distribution and occurrence of Red Sea fish on the Turkish Mediterranean coast northern Cilician basin. *Acta Adriatica*, 34(1/2), 103-113.
- Gülşahin, A., & Kara, A. (2013). Record of *Nemipterus randalli* Russell, 1986 from the southern Aegean Sea (Gökova Bay, Turkey). *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 29, 933-934.
- Halim, Y., & Rizkalla, S. (2011). Aliens in Egyptian Mediterranean waters. A check-list of Erythrean fish with new records. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 12(2), 479-490.
- Hornell, J. (1935). *Report on the Fisheries of Palestine*. Government of Palestine. Crown Agent for the Colonies, London.
- Iglésias, S., & Frotté, L. (2015). Alien marine fishes in Cyprus: Update and new records. *Aquatic Invasions*, 10(4), 425-438.
- Ioannou, G., Michailidis, N., Loucaides, A., & Manitaras, I. (2010). First occurrence of *Scarus ghobban* (Actinopterygii: Scaridae) in the coastal waters of Cyprus (Eastern Mediterranean Sea). *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 11, 353-356.
- Jawad, L., Mtawej, A., Ibrahim, A., & Hassan, M. (2015). First record of the lesser amberjack *Seriola fasciata* (Teleostei: Carangidae) in Syrian coasts. *Cahiers de Biologie Marine*, 56, 81–84.
- Jimenez, C., Petrou, A., Andreou, V., Hadjioannou, L., & Wolf, W. et al. (2016). Veni, vidi, vici: The successful establishment of the lionfish *Pterois miles* in Cyprus (Levantine Sea). *Commission Internationale pour l'Exploration Scientifique de la Méditerranée*, 41, 417.
- Kalogirou, S., & Corsini-Foka, M. (2012). First record of the Indo-Pacific *Champsodon nudivittis* (Ogilby, 1895) (Perciformes, Champsodontidae) in the Aegean waters (eastern Mediterranean Sea). *BioInvasions Records*, 1, 229–233.
- Kampouris, T. E., Doumpas, N., Giovos, I., & Batjakas, I. E. (2019). First record of the Lessepsian *Nemipterus randalli* Russell, 1986 (Perciformes, Nemipteridae) in Greece. *Cahiers de Biologie Marine*, 60, 559-561.
- Kapiris, K., Apostolidis, C., Baldacconi, R., Başusta, N., & Bilecenoglu, M. et al. (2014). New Mediterranean marine biodiversity records (April 2014). *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 15(1), 198–212.

- Karachle, P. K., Angelidis, A., Apostolopoulos, G., Ayas, D., & Ballesteros, M. et al. (2016). New Mediterranean Biodiversity Records (March 2016). *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 17(1), 230–252.
- Katsanevakis, S., Tsiamis, K., Ioannou, G., Michailidis, N., & Zenetos, A. (2009). Inventory of alien marine species of Cyprus (2009). *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 10(2), 109-133.
- Katsanevakis, S., Poursanidis, D., Hoffman, R., Rizgalla, J., & Rothman SB-S. et al. (2020) Unpublished Mediterranean records of marine alien and cryptogenic species. *BioInvasions Records*, 9, 165–182.
- Kebapçioğlu, T., & Dereli, H. (2016). First record of gaper (*Champsodon capensis* Regan, 1908) in the Aegean Sea. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 17(3), 794-821.
- Kousteni, V., & Christidis, G. (2019). Westward range expansion of the Indo-Pacific nakedband gaper *Champsodon nudivittis* (Ogilby, 1895) in Saronikos Gulf, Greece. *BioInvasions Records*, 8(1), 167-174.
- Lelli, S., Colloca, F., Carpentieri, P., & Russell, B. C. (2008). The threadfin bream *Nemipterus randalli* (Perciformes: Nemipteridae) in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 73, 740-745.
- Massutí, E., & Stefanescu, C. (1993). First record of *Seriola fasciata* (Bloch, 1793) (Osteichthyes: Carangidae) in the Mediterranean. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 42, 143–144.
- Mytilineou, C., Akel, E., Babali, N., Balistreri, P., & Bariche, M. et al. (2016). New Mediterranean Biodiversity Records (November, 2016). *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 17(3), 794–821.
- Nemeth, D. (1994). Systematics and distribution of fishes of the family Champsodontidae (Teleostei: Perciformes), with descriptions of three new species. *Copeia*, 1994(2), 347-371.
- Öğretmen, F., Yılmaz, F., & Torcu Koç, H. (2005). An investigation on fishes of Gökova Bay (Southern Aegean Sea). *BAÜ Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü Dergisi*, 7(2), 19-36.
- Oliver, P. (1981). Sobre la aparición de algunos peces raros en las Islas Baleares. *Boletín Instituto Español de Oceanografía*, 6, 59-64.
- Oray, I. K., Sinay, E., Karakulak, S. F., & Yıldız, T. (2015). An expected marine alien fish caught at the coast of Northern Cyprus: *Pterois miles* (Bennett, 1828). *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 31(4), 733-735. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jai.12857>
- Oruç, A. Ç., Şensurat-Genç, T., Özgül, A., & Lök, A. (2022). The northernmost dispersal record of the lionfish, *Pterois miles* (Bennett, 1828) for the Aegean Sea. *Ege Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 39(1), 84-87. <https://doi.org/10.12714/egejfas.39.1.12>
- Öz, I., Okuş, E., & Yüksek, A. (2007). Notes on the erythrean alien fishes of Datça-Bozburun Peninsula - A specially protected area in the south eastern Aegean Sea (Turkey). *Commission Internationale pour l'Exploration Scientifique de la Méditerranée*, 38, 563.
- Özgül, A. (2020). Occurrence of lionfish, *Pterois miles* (Bennett, 1828) in the coast of Aegean Sea (Turkey): The northernmost dispersal record. *Ege Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*, 37(3), 313-317. <https://doi.org/10.12714/egejfas.37.3.15>
- Özgür Özbek, E., Mavruk, S., Saygu, İ., & Öztürk, B. (2017). Lionfish distribution in the eastern Mediterranean coast of Turkey. *Journal of the Black Sea/Mediterranean Environment*, 23(1), 1-16.
- Papaconstantinou, C. (1990). The spreading of lessepsian fish migrants into the Aegean Sea (Greece). *Scientia Marina*, 54, 313–316.
- Peristeraki, P., Lazarakis, G., Skarvelis, C., Georgiadis, M., & Tserpes, G. (2006). Additional records on the occurrence of alien fish species in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 7, 61–66.
- Poulain, P., Menna, M., & Mauri, E. (2012). Surface geostrophic circulation of the Mediterranean Sea derived from drifter and satellite altimeter data, *Journal of Physical Oceanography*, 42, 973-990.
- Poursanidis, D., Kougioumoutzis, K., Minasidis, V., Chartosia, N., Kletou, D., & Kalogirou S. (2022). Uncertainty in Marine Species Distribution Modelling: Trying to Locate Invasion Hotspots for *Pterois miles* in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. *Journal of Marine Science and Engineering*, 10, 729. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jmse10060729>
- Rilov, G., & Galil, B. S. (2009). Marine bioinvasions in the Mediterranean Sea – History, distribution and ecology. In Rilov, G., & Crooks, J. A (Eds.), *Biological Invasions in Marine Ecosystems*. (pp. 549-575). Springer.
- Russell, B. C. (1990). *Nemipterid Fishes of the World (threadfin breams. whiptail breams. monocle breams. dwarf monocle breams. and coral breams) Family Nemipteridae. An Annotated and Illustrated Catalogue*

- of *Nemipterid Species Known to Date*. FAO Fisheries Synopsis no. 125. FAO, Rome.
- Smith-Vaniz, W. F., & Berry, F. H. (1981). Carangidae. In Fischer, W. (Ed.) *FAO species identification sheets for fishery purposes: Eastern Central Atlantic, fishing area 34*. FAO, Rome.
- Smith, M. M., & Heemstra, P. C. (1986). Tetraodontidae. In Smith, M. M., & Heemstra, P. C. (Eds.), *Smiths' sea fishes* (pp. 894-903). Springer-Verlag.
- Soliman, A., Saad, A., & Ali, M. (2018). First record of the blue-barred parrotfish, *Scarus ghobban* (Actinopterygii: Scaridae) from Syrian marine waters. *Tishreen University Journal for Research and Scientific Studies – Biological Sciences Series*, 40(2), 57-66.
- Sonin, O., Salameh, P., & Golani, D. (2009). First record of the lesser amberjack, *Seriola fasciata* (Actinopterygii: Perciformes: Carangidae), in the Levant. *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 39, 71–73.
- Stamouli, C., Akel, E. K., Azzurro, E., Bakiu, R., & Bas, A. A. et al. (2017). New Mediterranean Biodiversity Records (December 2017). *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 18(3), 534–556.
- Stranga, Y., & Katsanevakis, S. (2021). Eight years of BioInvasions Records: patterns and trends in alien and cryptogenic species records. *Management of Biological Invasions*, 12(2), 221–239.
- Torcu, H., & Mater, S. (2000). Lessepsian fishes spreading along the coasts of the Mediterranean and the southern Aegean Sea of Turkey. *Turkish Journal of Zoology*, 24, 139-148.
- Turan, C., Ergüden, D., Gürlek, M., Yağlıoğlu, D., Uyan, A., & Uygur, N. (2014a). First record of the Indo-Pacific lionfish *Pterois miles* (Bennett, 1828) (Osteichthyes: Scorpaenidae) for the Turkish marine waters. *Journal of the Black Sea/Mediterranean Environment*, 20, 158-163.
- Turan, C., Ergüden, D., Gürlek, M., Yağlıoğlu, D., & Uygur, N. (2014b). First record of the blue-barred parrotfish, *Scarus ghobban* Forsskal, 1775, from Turkish coastal waters. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 30(2), 424-425. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jai.12402>
- Turan, C., & Öztürk, B. (2015). First record of the lionfish *Pterois miles* from the Aegean Sea. *Journal of the Black Sea/Mediterranean Environment*, 21, 334–338.
- Tüney-Kızılkaya, I., & Akyol, O. (2020). Occurrence of *Scarus ghobban* (Scaridae) at the border of the Aegean Sea (Kaş, Turkey). *Annales, Series Historia Naturalis*, 30(2), 223-226.
- Walther, G. R., Post, E., Convey, P., Menzel, A., Parmesan, C., Beebee, T. J. C., Fromentin, J.-M., Hoegh-Guldberg, O., & Bairlein, F. (2002). Ecological responses to recent climate change. *Nature*, 416, 389–395. <https://doi.org/10.1038/416389a>
- Yağlıoğlu, D., & Ayas, D. (2016). New occurrence data of four alien fishes (*Pisodonophis semicinctus*, *Pterois miles*, *Scarus ghobban* and *Parupeneus forsskali*) from the North Eastern Mediterranean (Yeşilovacık Bay, Turkey). *Biharean Biologist*, 10(2), 150-152.
- Yapici, S., Fricke, R., & Filiz, H. (2016). Champsodontids at the gates: First record of *Champsodon vorax* Günther, 1867 from the Aegean Sea (Teleostei: Champsodontidae). *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 32(1), 120-122. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jai.12931>
- Yapici, S., & Filiz, H. (2020). First occurrence of a lesser amberjack *Seriola fasciata* (Bloch, 1793) in the Aegean coasts of Turkey with morphological and molecular identification. *Regional Studies in Marine Science*, 40, 101494. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rsma.2020.101494>
- Yapıcı, S. (2018). Piscis non grata in the Mediterranean Sea: *Pterois miles* (Bennett, 1828). *Ege Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*, 35(4), 467-474. <https://doi.org/10.12714/egejfas.2018.35.4.13>
- Zachariou-Mamalinga, H., & Corsini, M. (1994). The occurrence of the fish *Sphoeroides pachygaster* in the south-eastern Aegean Sea (Greece). *Annales Musei Goulandris*, 9, 479-483.
- Zenetos, A., Gofas, S., Morri, C., Rosso, A., Violanti, D., Garcia, Raso, J., Cinar, M., Almogi-Labin, A., Ates, A., Azzurro, E., Ballesteros, E., Bianchi, C., Bilecenoglu, M., Gambi, M., Giangrande, A., Gravili, C., Hyams-Kaphzan, O., Karachle, V., Katsanevakis, S., Lipej, L., Mastrototaro, F., Mineur, F., Pancucci-Papadopoulou, M., Ramos-Esplá, A., Salas, S., San Martin, G., Sfriso, A., Streftaris, N., Verlaque, M. (2012). Alien species in the Mediterranean Sea by 2012. A contribution to the application of European Union's Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Part 2. Patterns in introduction trends and pathways. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 13(2), 328-352.