

The Occurrence of *Ranella olearium* (Linnaeus, 1758), in Saros Bay, (North East Aegean Sea, Çanakkale, Turkey)

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(Received 06.07.2018; Accepted in revised form 19.07.2018)

Abstract: Two specimens of *Ranella olearium* were landed on November 28th, 2006 off Güneyli, Saros Bay (North Aegean Sea, Turkey), by a bottom trawl from a depth range of 264-366 m. This finding is the second report of this species from Turkish waters and the first report of its existence in Saros Bay.

Keywords: *Ranella olearium*, Saros Bay, North East Aegean Sea

Ranella olearium (Linnaeus, 1758)'un Saros Körfezi (Kuzey Ege Denizi, Çanakkale, Türkiye) için İlk Kaydı

Özet: İki adet *Ranella olearium* türüne ait birey, 28 Kasım 2006 tarihinde, Saros Körfezi, Güneyli açıklarında (Kuzey Ege Denizi, Türkiye) dip trolü ile yapılan çekimlerde 264-366 m kontüründe yakalanmıştır. Elde edilen bireyler, bu türün Türkiye sularında ikinci kaydı, Saros Körfezi için ilk kayıdır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Ranella olearium*, Saros Körfezi, Kuzey Doğu Ege Denizi

Introduction

The olive trumpet, *Ranella olearium* (Linnaeus, 1758), is a cosmopolitan deep sea gastropod belonging to the family Ranellidae. This species has a wide distribution with reports from the Mediterranean, Central and South Atlantic, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean and the South West Pacific. It lives on mud bottoms at 40-400 m (Gofas, 2010; Poppe & Goto, 1991). Despite its worldwide distribution and reported existence from Western Mediterranean, *R. olearium* is a rare species for the Turkish waters of the Mediterranean Sea with only one report so far (Kabasakal & Kabasakal, 2002). This paper reports the existence of the olive trumpet from Saros Bay, (Çanakkale, Turkey) North East Aegean Sea.

Two live specimens of *Ranella olearium* were collected on November 28th, 2006 off Güneyli, Saros Bay, Çanakkale, Turkey. The specimens were landed by a bottom trawl from a depth of 264-366 meters. The beginning and ending coordinates of trawling operation were 40 29 274 N; 26 29 343 E and 40 31 168 N; 26 35 049 E, respectively.

Identification of collected specimens was carried out based on Sabelli (1979) and Dance (1992). The

general description of specimens was as follows: Shells are robust, large in size (total lengths 20.60 cm and 19.30 cm, respectively) and highly spired (Figure 1). The colors are creamy-white with light brown and hazel blotches. Typical to the family Ranellidae, there is a thick brown periostracum. The whorls are regularly rounded with impressed suture. All the whorls have two large symmetrical varices located 180° apart. Fine spiral ridges on whorls form the general sculpture of the shell with numerous tubercles forming axial ribs with a beaded appearance particularly on earlier spiral whorls. These tubercles are larger on the last two whorls. The lower portion of the body whorl has pronounced spiral ridges in the form of ribs and riblets without nodules. The aperture is slightly oval, has a thickened outer lip with a varix and distinct teeth in rows. The columellar callus is extended on the ventral surface of the body whorl. The siphon canal is long and upturned. The operculum is proteinaceous, thick, and has an apical nucleus.

Saros Bay is one of the most productive areas in North Aegean Sea due to discharge of Meriç River and the northerly currents from The Sea of Marmara via the Dardanelles which brings nutrient rich waters. A recent report on biodiversity of Saros Bay indicates the

presence of 209 algae, 108 fishes, 2 mammals and 233 invertebrates (Yiğit et al., 2014) in the area. In another study, a total of 124 fish species has been reported from the area, 28 of which belonged to cartilaginous fishes (Cengiz et al., 2011). However, there is limited data on other marine organisms such as gastropoda and bivalves. Saros Bay, where 2 specimens of *R. olearium* were collected, has been declared a specially protected area in 2010. As a result, all commercial fishing activities in this area are prohibited. Therefore, Saros Bay has the potential for new records of gastropods as well as other mollusk species. Further research is required to study and characterize gastropod fauna of the area with particular emphasis on deep water species.



Figure 1. Two specimens of *Ranella olearium* caught off Güneyli, Saros Bay, North Aegean Sea.

Acknowledgements

This study was funded by TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) under grant number 106Y035.

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