

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Maximum size of saddled bream, *Oblada melanura* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Osteichthyes: Sparidae), in the southern Aegean Sea, Turkey

Okan Akyol^{*}, Ali Kara, Cemil Sağlam

Faculty of Fisheries, Ege University, 35440, Izmir, TURKEY

***Corresponding author:** okan.akyol@ege.edu.tr

Abstract

A specimen of the saddled bream, *Oblada melanura*, with 357 mm TL, was caught on 30 April 2014 by gillnet fishery in Kokar Cove, Sığacık Bay, the southern Aegean Sea. The present study reports not only the second maximum length record of *O. melanura* for the Mediterranean, but also the maximum record for the Turkish seas.

Keywords: Saddled bream, *Oblada melanura*, Maximum length, Sığacık Bay, Aegean Sea

Introduction

Saddled bream, *Oblada melanura* (Linnaeus 1758) is an inshore benthopelagic schooling fish swimming above sandy and rocky bottoms or seagrass meadows at depth down to 30 m and it feeds on zooplankton and small invertebrates (Golani *et al.* 2006; Froese and Pauly 2014). *O. melanura* is Atlanto-Mediterranean, distributing from the Bay of Biscay to Angola, Madeira, Cape Verde and the Canary Islands, and common throughout the Mediterranean, very rare in the Black Sea (Bauchot and Hureau 1986; Froese and Pauly 2014). Spawning occurs in April-June in the Mediterranean; gonochoric and some individuals' hermaphroditic protogynous (Bauchot and Hureau 1986).

On 30 April 2014, an *O. melanura* specimen (Figure 1) with 357 mm TL (571 g weight) was caught by gillnet (stretched mesh size 76 mm) in Kokar Cove, Sığacık Bay (Figure 2) at a depth of 25 m on a sandy-muddy bottom. The specimen was fixed in 10% formaldehyde solution and deposited in the fish collection of the Faculty of Fisheries, Ege University (ESFM-PIS/2014-004). Diagnostic characteristics were as follows: dorsal finrays XI+14, anal finrays III+14, ventral finrays I+5, pectoral finrays 15, *linea lateralis* 64. All

measurements, counts, and color patterns determined are in accordance with description of Bauchot and Hureau (1986), Golani *et al.* (2006) and Froese and Pauly (2014).



Figure 1. *Oblada melanura* with 357 mm TL, caught in Kokar Cove, Sığacık Bay, the southern Aegean Sea (Photo: O. Akyol)

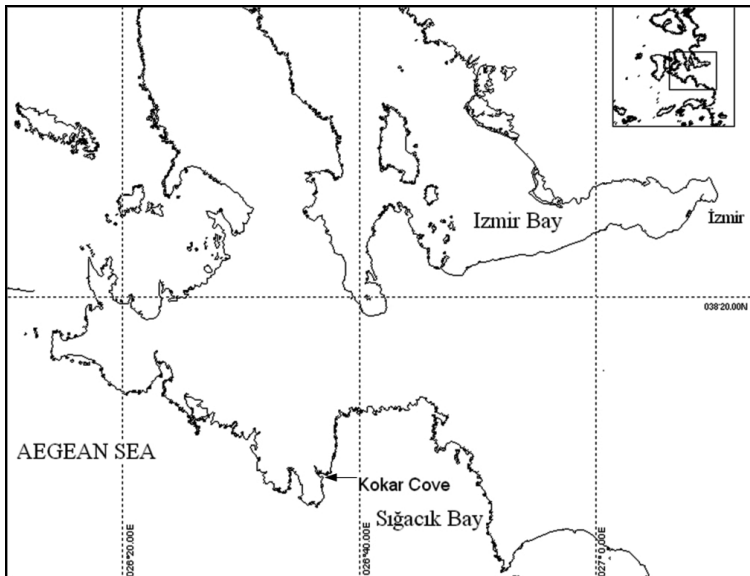


Figure 2. Sampling location (arrow shows Kokar Cove)

Maximum length of *O. melanura* is reported 300 mm (Golani *et al.* 2006) and 340 mm TL (Gonçaves *et al.* 1997; Froese and Pauly 2014). Pallaora *et al.*(1998) found maximum length as 334 mm amongst the 5341 specimens of the saddled bream in the eastern Adriatic Sea. For the Greek waters, maximum length was given as 289 mm (n=90) by Stergiou and Moutopoulos (2001). Mahmoud (2010) also determined that the maximum length of saddled bream was 292 mm (n=477) in Abu Qir Bay, Egypt. Recently, the largest specimen of *O. melanura* with 366 mm length (n=74) was reported from the French Catalan coast, western Mediterranean Sea by Crec'hriou *et al.* (2012). Due to the sampling difficulties, there is a gap in literature on *O. melanura*, we could not find any length/weight studies in the Turkish seas.

However, the present study reports not only the second maximum length record of *O. melanura* for the Mediterranean, but also the maximum record for the Turkish seas. At the same time, off Kokar Cove exists a cultured fish area, and there is a sea-cage farm nearby. Thus, we think that the specimen sampled had probably reached to the uncommonly big size owing to the high nutritional opportunity around the fish cages.

Güney Ege Denizi'nde *Oblada melanura*'nın (Linnaeus, 1758) (Osteichthyes: Sparidae) maksimum boyu

Özet

357 mm total boyuyla bir melanur (*Oblada melanura*) bireyi 30 Nisan 2014 tarihinde Sığacık Körfezi Kokar Koyu'nda (Güney Ege Denizi) uzatma ağlarıyla yakalanmıştır. Bu çalışma, *O. melanura*'nın sadece Akdeniz için ikinci değil, aynı zamanda Türkiye denizleri için ilk kez en büyük boyunu rapor etmektedir.

References

- Bauchot, M.-L. Hureau, J.-C. (1986) Sparidae. In: Fishes of the North-eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, Vol.II (Eds., P. J. P. Whitehead, M.-L. Bauchot, J.-C. Hureau, J. Nielsen, E. Tortonose), UNESCO, Paris, pp. 883–913.
- Crec'hriou, R., Neveu, R., Lenfant, P. (2012) Length-weight relationship of main commercial fishes from the French Catalan coast. *J. Appl. Ichthyol.* 28: 861-862.
- Froese, R., Pauly, D. (2014) FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication. www.fishbase.org version (02/2014).(Accessed date: 05 May 2014).
- Golani, D., Öztürk, B., Başusta, N. (2006) Fishes of the Eastern Mediterranean. Turkish Marine Research Foundation, Istanbul, 259 pp.

Gonçalves, J.M.S., Bentes, L., Lino, P.G., Ribeiro, J., Canario, A.V.M., Erzini, K. (1997) Weight-length relationships for selected fish species of the small-scale demersal fisheries of the south and southwest coast of Portugal. *Fisheries Research* 30: 253-256.

Mahmoud, H.H. (2010) Age, growth and mortality of saddled bream, *Oblada melanura* (Linnaeus, 1758) in Abu Qir Bay, Egypt. *Egyptian Journal of Aquatic Research* 36: 1-7.

Pallaora, A., Cetinic, P., Dulcic, J., Jardas, I., Kraljevic, M. (1998) Biological parameters of the saddled bream *Oblada melanura* in the eastern Adriatic. *Fisheries Research* 38: 199-205.

Stergiou, K.I., Moutopoulos, D.K. (2001) A review of length-weight relationships of fishes from Greek marine waters. *Naga, the ICLARM Quarterly* 24: 23-39.

Received: 06.05.2014

Accepted: 15.06.2014