

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

### **New maximum length of Tub gurnard, *Chelidonichthys lucerna* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Osteichthyes: Triglidae) in the Southern Aegean Sea, Turkey**

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#### **Abstract**

A specimen of the Tub gurnard, *Chelidonichthys lucerna*, with 735 mm TL, was caught on 2 January 2013 by an angler on a boat in Sığacık Bay, Southern Aegean Sea. The given size is the second maximum length record of *C. lucerna*, however, it is a first confirmed record for the Turkish seas.

**Key words:** Tub gurnard, *Chelidonichthys lucerna*, maximum length, Sığacık Bay, Aegean Sea.

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#### **Introduction**

Maximum length and weight are very important theoretical parameters in fisheries science. Borges (2001) expressed that directly and indirectly, these measurements enter into most of the models used in stock assessments.

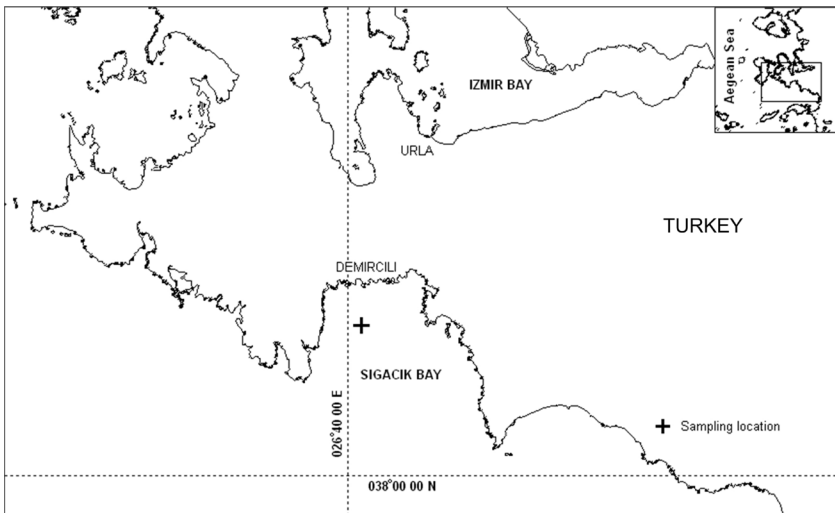
Tub gurnard, *Chelidonichthys lucerna* (Linnaeus 1758) is a demersal fish on sandy, gravel or muddy bottom at depths of 20-318 m and feeds on crustaceans, mollusks and fishes (Golani *et al.* 2006; Froese and Pauly 2007). Tub gurnard is Atlanto-Mediterranean species, and they occur at temperatures ranging from 8-24°C in eastern Atlantic from Norway to West African coast (Cape Blanc); not recorded at Madeira and the Azores; Mediterranean and Black Seas (Hureau 1986; Froese and Pauly 2007).

On 2 January 2013, a *Chelidonichthys lucerna* specimen (Figure 1) with 735 mm TL was provided by an angler, Sardine flesh was used as bait. The capture location was off the Demircili cove (Figure 2), Sığacık Bay (Southern Aegean

Sea) at a depth of 90 m on a sandy bottom. Then, this fish was sold at a higher price in fish auction by Urla fishery cooperative.



**Figure 1.** *Chelidonichthys lucerna* with 735 mm TL, caught from off Demircili, Sığacık Bay (Southern Aegean Sea)



**Figure 2.** Sampling location of *Chelidonichthys lucerna*

Diagnostic characters were: first dorsal finrays IX, second dorsal finrays 16, anal finrays 15, pectoral finrays 10+3, ventral finrays I+5. Head length (HL) 23.1%, pre-dorsal length 23.8%, pre-anal length 42.9%, maximum body depth 15.6%, all TL. Eye diameter 10.6%, pre-orbital length 52.4%, all HL. All determined measurements, counts, and color patterns are in accordance with the descriptions of Hureau (1986), Golani *et al.* (2006), and Froese and Pauly (2007).

Length of Tub gurnard is usually reported 35 cm and maximum 75 cm TL (Hureau 1986; Golani *et al.* 2006; Froese and Pauly 2007; FAO-FIGIS). However, a specimen of *C. lucerna* with 760 mm length has been reported from Saros Bay, Northern Aegean Sea in amongst to length-weight relationships of 63 fish species by İşmen *et al.* (2007). This was a first record of the maximum length of *C. lucerna*. In Turkish seas, the maximum lengths ( $L_{max}$ ) of this fish in the other studies were shown in Table 1. However, the present study reports to not only the second maximum length record of *C. lucerna*, but also first confirmed record for the Turkish seas. Both sampling areas (*i.e.* whole Saros Bay and northern part of Gök Liman and Killik Cape line in Sığacık Bay) are closed for trawlers. Thus, both fish sampled had probably been reaching to the uncommon size owing to the trawl closed areas.

**Table 1.** Records of *Chelidonichthys lucerna* in Turkish seas

Location	Record date	Sample collected	$L_{max}$ (mm)	Reference
İskenderun Bay, E Mediterranean	Apr.1999-Feb.2000	342	303	İşmen <i>et al.</i> (2004)
Sea of Marmara	Nov.1996-Nov.1997	224	415	Eryılmaz and Meriç (2005)
Izmir Bay, N Aegean Sea	1998-2001	470	366	Özaydın and Taşkavak (2006)
Mersin Bay, NE Mediterranean	May 1999-Apr.2000	137	303	Çiçek <i>et al.</i> (2006)
Izmir Bay, N Aegean Sea	July 1999-Aug.2000	546	344	Uçkun-İlhan and Toğulga (2007)
NE Mediterranean	2001-2003	474	245	Sangun <i>et al.</i> (2007)
Izmir Bay, N Aegean Sea	Feb.-Dec.2005	85	411	Özaydın <i>et al.</i> (2007)
Saros Bay, N Aegean Sea	Feb.2005-Apr.2006	829	760	İşmen <i>et al.</i> (2007)
Erdek, Sea of Marmara	Apr.2000-Dec.2001	17	151	Keskin and Gaygusuz (2010)
Sea of Marmara	Nov.2006-Mar.2007	90	640	Bök <i>et al.</i> (2011)
Sea of Marmara	Dec.2009-Feb.2011	352	560	Demirel and Murat-Dalkara (2012)

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## Güney Ege Denizi'nde kırlangıç balığının *Chelidonichthys lucerna* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Osteichthyes: Triglidae) yeni maksimum boyu

### Özet

735 mm total boyuyla bir kırlangıç (*Chelidonichthys lucerna*) bireyi 2 Ocak 2013 tarihinde Sığacık Körfezi'nde (Güney Ege Denizi) teknede bir oltacı tarafından yakalanmıştır. Bu verilen boy *C. lucerna*'nın ikinci en büyük boy kaydı olmakla beraber, bu, Türkiye denizleri için ilk doğrulanmış kayıttır.

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