

SHORT COMMUNICATION

**A new jellyfish species in the Turkish coastal waters -
Aequorea forskalea Péron & Lesueur, 1810
(Cnidaria: Hydrozoa)**

Mevlüt Gürlek¹, Deniz Yağlıoğlu², Deniz Ergüden¹, Cemal Turan^{1*}

¹Marine Science and Technology Faculty, Mustafa Kemal University, 31220 Iskenderun, Hatay, TURKEY

²Biodiversity Implementation and Research Center (DU-BIYOM), Duzce University, Duzce, TURKEY

*Corresponding author: turancemal@yahoo.com

Abstract

Aequorea forskalea Péron & Lesueur, 1810 was recorded for the first time from the Turkish coastal waters. *A. forskalea* was observed from January 2012 until September 2012 in Iskenderun Bay, the northeastern Mediterranean coast of Turkey. The occurrence of this species in the Turkish coastal waters may be related to its extension from the western Mediterranean waters.

Keywords: Jellyfish, *Aequorea forskalea*, Turkish Coastal Waters.

Introduction

The family Aequoreidae include five genera (*Aequorea*, *Aldersladia*, *Gangliostoma*, *Rhacostoma* and *Zygocanna*) in the world, of which only *Aequorea* and *Zygocanna* genera are found in the Mediterranean Sea (Bouillon *et al.* 2004; Schuchert 2013). The genus *Aequorea* has 24 species in the world and 3 species in the Mediterranean Sea (Bouillon *et al.* 2004; WoRMS 2013). *Aequorea forskalea* Péron and Lesueur, 1810, common in north-western Europe, from where it extends southwards along the west coast of Africa as far as the Gulf of Guinea, on the east coast of Africa and Indian Ocean and Mediterranean. *A. forskalea* also occurs on the Pacific coast of North America (Kramp 1956; 1968; Navas-Pereira and Vannucci 1991; Bouillon *et al.* 2004; Schuchert 2013). In the Mediterranean, *A. forskalea* is distributed in the eastern

and western Mediterranean, including the Adriatic (Bouillon *et al.* 2004). There has been no record on the occurrence of *A. forskalea* in the Turkish waters.

Morphological description of *A. forskalea* is as follows (Bouillon *et al.* 2004): Hydroid: colonies minute, stolonial with single or slightly branching erect hydrocauli which are imperfectly annulated or spirally grooved throughout their length; hydrothecae cylindrical, with a long conical folded operculum tapering to a fine sharp point, the folds continuing as striations of perisarc downwards nearly to base of hydrotheca, hydrothecal base at right angles to lateral walls; hydranths very extensile, with about 20 amphicoronate filiform oral tentacles united at their base by a prominent intertentacular membranous web; gonothecae very large and cylindrical, blunt-ended, arising from hydrocaulus on short imperfectly annulated stems just below hydranths and containing one rarely two medusa buds. Medusa: umbrella large, up to 175 mm wide, saucer-shaped, thick in centre, gradually thinning towards margin; manubrium half as wide as umbrella; radial canals usually 60-80, sometimes fewer or up to 160; «gonads» along almost whole length of radial canals; tentacles generally fewer than radial canals but varying from half to twice as many; tentacle bulbs elongate, conical; small bulbs few, scattered; excretory pores on short papillae; 5 -10 statocysts between successive radial canals.

A. forskalea individuals were captured by trammel nets during January and June 2012 in Iskenderun Bay, the northeastern Mediterranean Sea coast of Turkey. The abundance was about 2-5 individuals per m² from the intertidal zone to the depth of 40m on the coast of Iskenderun (36°38'17 N, 36°02'49 E). The size range of individuals collected were 40-84 mm in umbrella width. Metric and meristic data for the collected specimens of *A. forskalea* are given in Table 1. The specimens were photographed and deposited at the Marine Science and Technology Faculty of the Mustafa Kemal University, Turkey (Figure 1).

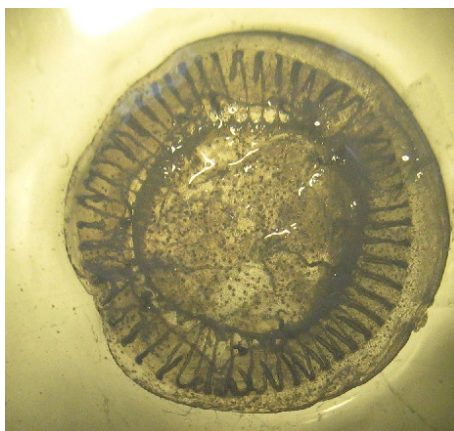


Figure 1. *Aequorea forskalea* captured in Iskenderun Bay, Turkey

Some measurements and counts were taken from the sampled individuals as given in Table 1. The species identification was made according to Bouillon *et al.* (2004).

Table 1. Morphological data for the collected specimens of *Aequorea forskalea* in Iskenderun Bay, Turkey

Sample no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Umbrella width (mm)	40	42	48	54	75	78	82	84
No of radial canals	62	65	65	64	68	65	64	66

A. forskalea had not been recorded in the Turkish Marine waters. The occurrence of *A. forskalea* in the Turkish coastal waters may be related to its extension from the western Mediterranean waters where *A. forskalea* is commonly found (Bouillon *et al.* 2004; Schuchert 2013). *A. forskalea* was also recently recorded in the neighboring country Syrian coast (Lattakia and Tartous Bay) in the northeastern Mediterranean basin (Mamish 2012). Another species of this genus (*Aequorea globosa*) was also recorded in this region firstly by Turan *et al.* (2011a) in the Turkish coastal waters and secondly by Mamish (2012) in Syrian coastal waters. Iskenderun Bay has also been occupied by other scyphozoan (Turan *et al.* 2011b; Turan *et al.* 2011c) and ctenophore species (Turan *et al.* 2010).

Türkiye Denizleri için yeni bir denizanası türü: *Aequorea forskalea* Péron & Lesueur, 1810 (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa)

Özet

Aequorea forskalea Péron & Lesueur, 1810 'nın Türkiye denizleri için ilk kaydı yapılmıştır. *A. forskalea* Ocak 2012'den Eylül 2012'ye kadar hemen hemen yıl boyunca Türkiye'nin kuzeydoğu Akdeniz kıyısı olan İskenderun Körfezinde gözlemlenmiştir. Bu türün Türkiye sahillerinde görülüşünün muhtemel sebebi batı Akdeniz'den doğu Akdeniz'e doğru yayılış göstermesi olarak düşünülebilir.

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