

***Atylus massilensis* Bellan-Santini, 1975  
(Amphipoda, Dexaminidae) for the fauna of  
Turkish Black Sea**

**Türkiye'nin Karadeniz faunasında *Atylus*  
*Massilensis* Bellan-Santini, 1975 (Amphipoda,  
Dexaminidae) Türü**

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**Abstract**

In this study, the characteristic features of *Atylus massilensis* Bellan-Santini, 1975, a new record for the Turkish fauna, are given based on the drawings made from collected specimens as well as their distribution and ecology.

**Key Words :** *Atylus massilensis*, Dexaminidae, Crustacea, Amphipoda, Black Sea

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**Introduction**

Many studies are available on the amphipod crustaceans of the Black Sea coasts of Ukraine, Romania and Bulgaria (Carasu *et al.*, 1955; Grezei, 1969; Gomoru, 1985; Muller, 1978). Consequently, it can be said that the

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Black Sea has a rich fauna of amphipod crustaceans but, little information is available on the amphipod fauna of the Turkish coasts. So far, 103 species of benthic amphipod have been recorded (Ivanov, 1985) in the Black Sea including 43 species on the Turkish coast (Kocataş and Katağan, 1978). In the Mediterranean 5 genera of Dexaminidea family have been identified such as *Atylus* genera including 4 species: *Atylus guttatus* (A. Costa, 1851), *Atylus swammerdami* (M. Edwards, 1830), *Atylus vedlomensis* (Bate and Westwood, 1862) and *Atylus massilensis* Bellan-Santini, 1975 (Ruffo, 1982). *Atylus massilensis* has been recorded in Antalya coasts from the Turkish waters (Kocataş and Katağan, 1978). In this study, *Atylus massilensis* belonging to *Atylus* genera is reported the first time in the Black Sea coast of Turkey.

### Material and Method

Sediment samples were collected at a depth of 3 m from Sinop coast of Black Sea (42° 02' 00" N, 35° 08' 25" E): by using Petersen grab. They were placed into a bucket, transported back to the laboratory at Sinop and they were passed through a 500 µm mesh to identified macrofauna. The specimens were measured, then fixed and preserved in 75 % ethanol. The terminology and identification of specimens are the same as those used by Ruffo (Ruffo, 1982).

### Results

Material examined: 2 ♀, Sinop Peninsula, Black Sea

Description: Female: Total body length 6.4 mm. Rostrum rounded, cephalic lobes slightly sinuous. Eyes large. Body compressed laterally. Antennae 1 longer than antennae 2. Pereon segments without dorsal tooth but pleon segments 1-3 each produced into a small tooth. Coxae 1-4 rectangular. Pereipod 5 basis weakly produced. Uropod 1 equal or slightly longer than peduncle. Telson cleft nearly to the base. Natural colours of the two female individuals collected in this study were whitish or yellowish and their eyes dark brown. Some body extremities belonging to *Atylus massilensis* Bellan-Santini, 1975 (♀) are shown in Figure 1.

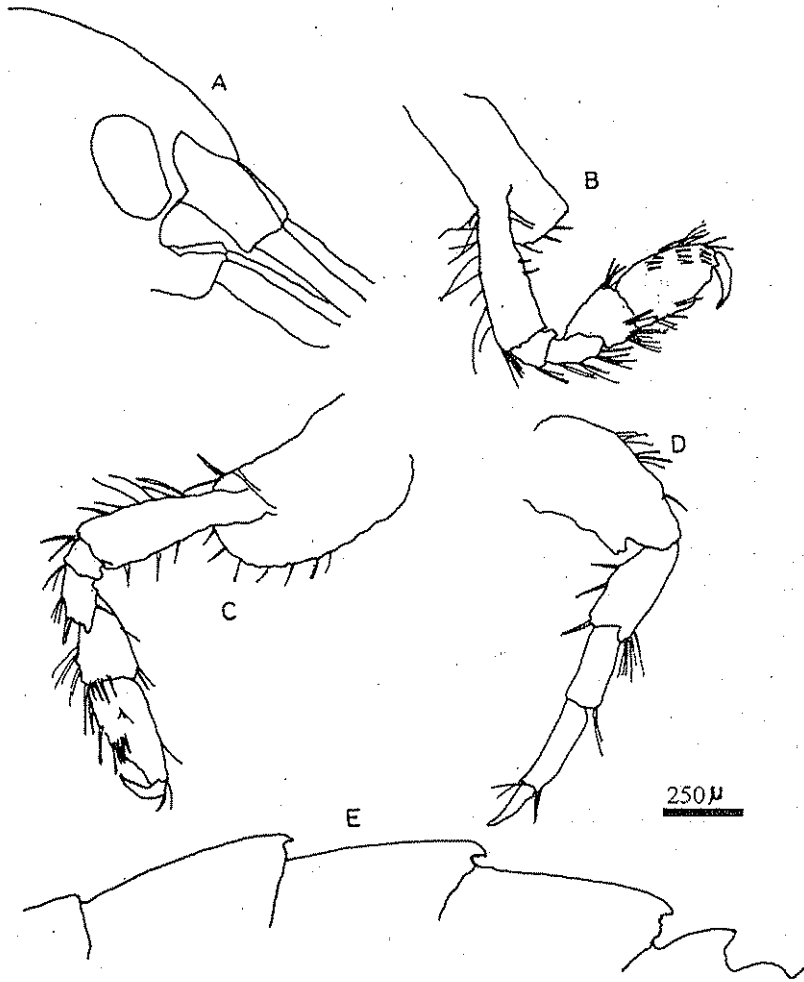


Figure 1. *Atylus massilensis* Bellan-Santini, 1975 (♀) A: Head, B: Gnathopod I, C: Gnathopod II, D: Pereopod V, E: Pleon segments.

**Discussion.**

Two females were observed under stereoscopic microscope in detail. As a result all axonomic characteristics and identification recorded in the present study are similar to those recorded for *Atylus massilensis* in Ruffo's study (Ruffo, 1982). *Atylus massilensis* (known as endemic species for the Mediterranean) has been reported from the Marseille coast of France (Ruffo, 1982). Ruffo (1982) found that female individual with eggs was 6 mm in length whereas in this study the length of the two female individuals with eggs was 6.4 mm.

The most obvious explanation for the presence of *Atylus massilensis* in the recorded area is that it can have been introduced from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea through Dardanelles and Bosphorus.

Generally the distribution of *Atylus massilensis* depends on the availability of fine sandy bottoms (Ruffo, 1982). However, it has also been reported from the algae and sand in the medio-infralittoral zone (0-0.5m) (Ruffo, 1982). In this study *Atylus massilensis* was found together with the amphipods *Bathyporeia guilliamsoniana* (Bate, 1857) and *Gammarellus angulosus* (Rathke, 1843), the isopod *Eurydice* sp. and the decapod *Diogenes pugilator* (Roux, 1829).

Finally the amphipod *Atylus massilensis* Bellan-Santini, 1975 is reported for the first time in the Black Sea of Turkey.

### Özet

Mevcut çalışmada, Karadeniz'in Türkiye kıyıları için yeni kayıt olan *Atylus massilensis* Bellan-Santini, 1975'in toplanan örnekler üzerinden şekilleri çizilerek yapısal özellikleri, ekolojisi ve yayılışı ile ilgili bilgiler verilmiştir.

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