

OCCURRENCE OF *SCARUS GHOBAN* (SCARIDAE) AT THE BORDER OF THE AEGEAN SEA (KAŞ, TURKEY)

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ABSTRACT

A single specimen of Scarus ghobban was caught on 5 May 2020 by a trammel net in the shallows off Cape Uluburun, southeast of Kaş, at a depth of 35 m. This ichthyological note is the second north-westernmost report of S. ghobban in the Levantine Sea since its recording at Kastellorizo, an island located close to Cape Uluburun. Only twelve records of S. ghobban since 2001 suggest that this species is still rare in the Mediterranean.

Key words: Scaridae, north-westernmost record, Cape Uluburun, Mediterranean Sea

PRESENZA DI *SCARUS GHOBAN* (SCARIDAE) AL CONFINE DEL MAR EGEO (KAŞ, TURCHIA)

SINTESI

Un esemplare di Scarus ghobban è stato catturato il 5 maggio 2020 da un tramaglio nelle secche al largo di Capo Uluburun, a sud-est di Kaş, ad una profondità di 35 m. Questa nota ittiologica rappresenta il secondo avvistamento di S. ghobban più a nord-ovest nel Mar Levantino dalla sua segnalazione a Kastellorizo, un'isola situata vicino a Capo Uluburun. Dal 2001 sono stati riportati solo dodici avvistamenti di S. ghobban, il che suggerisce che questa specie sia ancora rara nel Mediterraneo.

Parole chiave: Scaridae, record a nord-ovest, Capo Uluburun, Mediterraneo

INTRODUCTION

The Scaridae family (parrotfishes) consists of 83 species. Two of them are also present in the Mediterranean, one being a Lessepsian migrant (Golani *et al.*, 2006). *Scarus ghobban* Forsskal, 1775 entered the Mediterranean from the Red Sea via the Suez Canal (Golani *et al.*, 2006). Initially, only a few specimens were reported off Israeli and Lebanese coasts (Golani *et al.*, 2006). The species is widely distributed over the Indo-Pacific region (Golani *et al.*, 2006), including the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea and Algoa Bay, South Africa,

southern Japan, and other regions, such as the New South Wales, Gulf of California, Ecuador, and Eastern Mediterranean (Froese & Pauly, 2019).

Since the first record of *S. ghobban* in the Mediterranean Sea in 2001, from the Shiqmona coast, Israel (Goren & Aronov, 2002), the fish has expanded its range from Beirut, Lebanon (Bariche & Saad, 2008), to Kastellorizo Island, which is close to the location of the present study (Apostolopoulos & Karachle, 2016). The successive records are shown in Figure 1. This ichthyological note presents the second north-westernmost record of *S. ghobban* in the Levantine Sea.



Fig. 1: Successive records of *Scarus ghobban* from the Mediterranean Sea: (1) 20 Oct. 2001, Shiqmona, Israel (Goren & Aronov, 2002), (2) 20 Sept. 2004, Shiqmona, Israel (Golani & Levy, 2005), (3) 9 Nov. 2004, Beirut, Lebanon (Bariche & Saad, 2008), (4) 7 Feb. 2010, Zygi, Cyprus (Ioannou *et al.*, 2010), (5) 20 July 2013, Iskele City, Northern Cyprus (Filiz & Sevingel, 2014), (6) 6 Aug. 2013, Keldag coast, Iskenderun Bay (Turan *et al.*, 2014), (7) Sept. 2014, Kastellorizo Island, Greece (Apostolopoulos & Karachle, 2016), (8) July 2012 - Aug. 2016, Tartus, Syria (Soliman *et al.*, 2018), (9) 20 Dec. 2015, Yeşilovacık Bay, Mersin (Yaglıoğlu & Ayas, 2016), (10) 24 Dec. 2016, Gazipaşa, Antalya (Ergüden *et al.*, 2018), (11) 22 Dec. 2018, Mina Hasheesh Beach, Egypt (Al Mabruk *et al.*, 2020), (12) 5 May 2020, present study.

Sl. 1: Zapisi o pojavljanju vrste *Scarus ghobban* v Sredozemskem morju: (1) 20. okt. 2001, Shiqmona, Izrael (Goren & Aronov, 2002), (2) 20. sept. 2004, Shiqmona, Izrael (Golani & Levy, 2005), (3) 9. nov. 2004, Bejrut, Libanon (Bariche & Saad, 2008), (4) 7. feb. 2010, Zygi, Ciper (Ioannou *et al.*, 2010), (5) 20. jul. 2013, Iskele City, severni Ciper (Filiz & Sevingel, 2014), (6) 6. avg. 2013, obala Keldag, Zaliv Iskenderun (Turan *et al.*, 2014), (7) sept. 2014, otok Kastellorizo, Grčija (Apostolopoulos & Karachle, 2016), (8) julij 2012 - avg. 2016, Tartus, Sirija (Soliman *et al.*, 2018), (9) 20. dec. 2015, zaliv Yeşilovacık, Mersin (Yaglıoğlu & Ayas, 2016), (10) 24. dec. 2016, Gazipaşa, Antalya (Ergüden *et al.*, 2018), (11) 22. dec. 2018, plaža Mina Hasheesh, Egipt (Al Mabruk *et al.*, 2020), (12) 5. maj 2020, pričujoče delo.



Fig. 2: *Scarus ghobban*, captured off Cape Uluburun, Kaş, Turkey (Scale bar: 50 mm).

Sl. 2: *Scarus ghobban*, ujet pri rtu Uluburun, Kaş, Turčija (Merilo: 50 mm).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

On 5 May 2020, one specimen of *Scarus ghobban* was caught by a trammel net in the shallows off Cape Uluburun, Kaş (lat. 36°08.130 N, long. 29°40.394 E,

Tab. 1: Morphometric measurements as percentages of total length and meristic counts recorded in the *Scarus ghobban* captured off Cape Uluburun, Kaş, Turkey.

Tab. 1: Morfometrične meritve, izražene kot delež celotne dolžine telesa, in meristična štetja pri primerku vrste *Scarus ghobban*, ujetem pri rtu Uluburun, Kaş, Turčija.

Measurements	Size (mm)	Proportion (TL%)
Total length (TL)	501	
Standard length (SL)	412	82.2
Pre-dorsal fin length	138	27.5
Pre-anal fin length	248	49.5
Pre-pectoral fin length	115	22.9
Interorbital length	48	9.6
Head length	130	25.9
Eye diameter	15	3.0
Preorbital length	47	9.4
Meristic counts		
Dorsal fin rays		IX-9
Anal fin rays		III+9
Ventral fin rays		I+5
Pectoral fin rays		15
Weight (g)		1830

Fig. 1), on the south-western coast of Turkey, at a depth of 35 m. The sample (Fig. 2), fixed in a 6% formaldehyde solution, has been preserved in the fish collection of the Fisheries Faculty, Ege University (ESFM-PIS/2020-01).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The morphological description, colour, morphometric measurements with percentages of total length and meristic counts, as presented in Table 1, are in agreement with Golani *et al.* (2006), Froese & Pauly (2019), Ergüden *et al.* (2018). Two distinctive features of *S. ghobban* are its teeth, in both jaws fused to form dental plates with a median suture, and three rows of scales on the cheek.

Scarus ghobban inhabits rocky habitats in shallow waters and feeds on the algae it scrapes off rocks and corals (Golani *et al.*, 2006; Froese & Pauly, 2019). *S. ghobban* is usually found in shallow waters at depths of 1-100 m (see Ergüden *et al.*, 2018 and references therein) along the eastern Mediterranean. In this study, the specimen was captured in the shallows off Cape Uluburun. It is not known yet how *S. ghobban* crosses Cyprus, but ships could be a possible vector. Finally, it seems that *S. ghobban* is still rare in the Mediterranean, as only twelve intermittent records in various sites in the eastern Mediterranean have been reported since 2001. Seeing that this Lessepsian fish has settled only 100 km away from the Aegean Sea, we expect it will shortly occur in that area as well.

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POJAVLJANJE MODROPROGASTE MORSKE PAPIGE (SCARIDAE) NA MEJI EGEJSKEGA MORJA (KAŞ, TURKEY)

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POVZETEK

Primerek modroprogaste papige, Scarus ghoban, je bil ujet 5. maja 2020 v trislojno mrežo v plitvinah rta Uluburun, jugovzhodno od Kaşa, na globini 35 m. Ta ihtiološki zapis je po pojavu te vrste pri otoku Kastellorizo blizu rta Uluburun, drugi najbolj severozahodni zapis o pojavu vrste S. ghoban v Levantskem morju. Doslej je bilo zabeleženih 12 zapisov o pojavljanju te vrste v Sredozemskem morju, kar kaže na to, da je vrsta še vedno redka.

Ključne besede: Scaridae, skrajni severozahodni zapis, Rt Uluburun, Sredozemsko morje

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