

## **First record *Bellottia apoda* Giglioli, 1883 (Bythitidae), from the Eastern Mediterranean coast of Turkey**

### **Türkiye'nin Doğu Akdeniz sahillerinden *Bellottia apoda*'nın Giglioli, 1883 (Bythitidae), ilk kaydı**

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#### **Abstract**

One specimen of *Bellottia apoda* Giglioli, 1883 was caught by a bottom commercial trawler at a depth of 155 m on 28 October 2009. This is the first record of *B. apoda* in Turkish waters of Eastern Mediterranean. Morphometric and meristic characters of *B. apoda* caught are described.

**Key words:** *Bellottia apoda*, Bythitidae, Eastern Mediterranean Sea, first record.

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#### **Introduction**

Bythidae family is represented by a single species, *Bellottia apoda* Giglioli, 1883, in Turkey (Bilecenoglu et al. 2002, Turan et al. 2007). *B. apoda* is widely abundant in the western Mediterranean from the Atlantic, southwest from off Portugal and southwest off Madeira (Nielsen 1986).

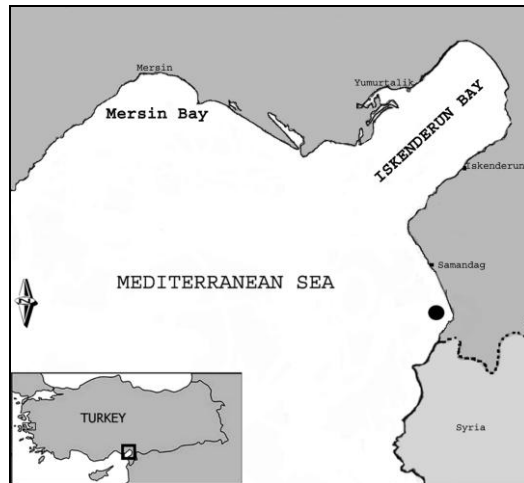
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The species is found at depth between 30-569 meters (Nielsen 1990, Mytilineou et al. 2005). *B. apoda* was first time reported from the Gulf of Naples in the Mediterranean by Giglioli (1883). The species was later reported from Ligurian Sea (Relini-Orsi 1976), from Saronikos Bay by Papaconstantinou et al. (1977), from Adriatic Sea by Jardas, 1979, Gramitto and Coen 1997, from Barcelona shores by Allue (1984) and off Madeira in the eastern Atlantic by Nielsen (1986) in Turkish coast of Aegean Sea by Kaya and Bilecenoglu (2000). In recent years the species was reported from the Gulf of Mexico by McEachran and Fechhelm (2005) and from off Georgia coast by Ross and Quattrini (2007). Thus *B. apoda* is reported in this study for the first time from the Eastern Mediterranean.

## Materials and Methods

A single *Bellottia apoda* Giglioli, 1883 specimen was captured by a bottom commercial trawler off Samandag coasts (Turkey) on 28 October 2009 (35°59'727'' N, 35° 59'274'' E) at a water depth 155m in Iskenderun Bay, Eastern Mediterranean Sea (Fig. 1).



**Figure 1.** Sampling location (●) of *Bellottia apoda*

The specimen preserved in 4% formalin and was deposited in the Museum of the Faculty of Fisheries, Mustafa Kemal University, (MSM-PIS/2009-2) (Fig. 2). The specimen was identified as *B. apoda* with the diagnostic characteristics described by Nielsen (1986) and Nielsen et al. (1999). Measurements were carried out to the nearest 0.1 mm by a caliper, and meristic counts were made under the reflected light of a stereomicroscope.



**Figure 2.** *Bellottia apoda* (MSM-PIS/2009-2) 35.6 mm SL, from Iskenderun Bay.

## Results and Discussion

The specimen is described as follows: Dorsal fin rays 84, pectoral fin ray 21, anal fin rays 67, and caudal fin ray 6. Morphometric measurements and body proportions in percentage are given in Table 1. The head is somewhat depressed. Body relatively short; snout depressed. Mouth large. Lateral line in two sections, an upper and a lower, marked by lines of papillae. Eyes developed, at surface of head. Body completely covered with small, imbricate scales. Peritoneum pale and ventral fins absent. Body color, back light brown and the head is darker. Dorsal and anal fins are light brown, dark brown is the base of fins. *B. apoda* is feed on planktonic and benthic organisms.

Giglioli (1883) reported the first record of *B. apoda* with two samples collected from 30 m depth from the meadow *Posidania* in the

Mediterranean Sea. Kaya and Bilecenoglu (2000) first time reported this species from the Aegean Sea (Sığacık Bay) at a depth of 210 m on 20 May 1996 (SL: 41.2 mm) which indicated expanded easternmost distribution of *B. apoda* in the Mediterranean Sea.

The present study indicates extension of *B. apoda* to the Iskenderun Bay, Levantine Sea, which is the most eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea.

**Table 1.** Morphometric measurements of *Bellottia apoda* specimen collected in this study.

| Measurements                | Value (mm) | Proportion (%)    |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Total length (TL)           | 41.2       |                   |
| Standard length (SL)        | 35.6       | 86.4 TL           |
| Body depth (BD)             | 7.16       | 20.1 SL           |
| Head length (HL)            | 10.74      | 30.2 SL           |
| Eye diameter (ED)           | 1.83       | 17.0 HL, 42.3 IOD |
| Snout length                | 2.63       | 24.5 HL           |
| Preorbital length           | 8.44       | 78.5 HL           |
| Postorbital length          | 7.25       | 67.5 HL           |
| Interorbital distance (IOD) | 4.32       | 40.2 HL           |
| Preanal length              | 18.2       | 51.1 SL           |
| Predorsal length            | 13.9       | 39.0 SL           |

## Özet

28 Ekim 2009 tarihinde ticari dip trol teknesiyle yaklaşık 155 m derinlikten bir adet *Bellottia apoda* Giglioli, 1883 bireyi yakalanmıştır. Bu kayıt Türkiye'nin Akdeniz'in doğusundaki sularından, *B. apoda*'nın ilk kayıdır. Çalışmada *B. apoda*'nın morfolometrik ve meristik özellikleri tanımlanmıştır.

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