

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**COMMENTS ON:** Balkis-Ozdelice, N., Durmus, T., Balci, M. (2022) Letter to the Editor. *Journal of Black Sea/Mediterranean Environment* 28(1): 125-126.

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As the authors of the article titled “New record of the benthic marine mucilage aggregates *Phaeocystis giraudii* from Turkish Eastern Mediterranean Sea”, we would like to respond to the comments of N. Balkis-Ozdelice, T. Durmus, and M. Balci on our article: New record of the benthic marine mucilage aggregates *Phaeocystis giraudii* from Turkish Eastern Mediterranean Sea. *Journal of the Black Sea/Mediterranean Environment* 27(2): 124-139.

It is important to mention that in the study of Okudan *et al.* (2021), the authors were focused on the presence of *P. giraudii* and its mucilaginous aggregates in Turkey; the central Aegean Sea and Turkish part of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea using data from the authors' own field studies since 1994. Furthermore, habitat and depth preferences of the species and aggregates are stated, morphological variations of the species and microscopic cell features of the species are described in this study. More detailed part of our article address the confusion caused by the debatable nomenclature of the species and its final status of the systematic position.

The first part of the comment by Balkis-Özdelice *et al.* (2021) questions the presentation of the species as a new record in our study. As noted by the authors in the comment, their article was submitted to the journal on 20 May 2021, accepted on 08 June 2021, and published in December 2021 issue of the journal. Its online publication date could not be seen. Our article was sent to the journal on June 2021 and published in the 2nd issue of the quarterly journal. It is clear that the submission dates of both publications to the journal are very close.

As for the second part of the comment on this species reported by V. Demir (2011) in PhD thesis as *Chrysoreinhardia giraudii* from Kaş on the Mediterranean coast of Türkiye;

Demir (2011) reported this species as *C. giraudii* from Kaş in the Mediterranean coast of Turkey in his PhD thesis. V. Demir is one of the authors in our article. The data used in this article is one of the results in the author's thesis area and is his own data. As stated above, our article address the confusion caused by the debatable nomenclature of the species and its final status of the systematic position. As commenters pointed out, different nomenclature could have discussed with reference to this thesis. However, many journals limit the use of theses and reports in the reference list. For this reason, Okudan *et al.* (2021) did not cite Demir (2011), who is amongst the authors, for this data.

As a result, considering the data in the article of Okudan *et al.* (2021), it is seen that the original data of the contributing authors' field studies covering the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts since 1994 have been shared. On the other hand, considering the contents of the articles, our article is a study of the naming problems of the presented species rather than an ecological study. But, more importantly, the submission dates of both manuscripts are very close. For this reason, Balkis-Özdelice *et al.* (2021) could not be included in the literature review that we conducted while preparing the article. In such cases, the "Submission date of the articles to the journal" in the journals prevents such confusion and informs the possible future authors who will do a literature review on this subject.

## References

Balkis-Özdelice, N., Durmuş, T., Balçı, M. (2022) COMMENTS ON: Okudan, E.Ş., Dural, B., Erdugan, H., Aktan, Y., Demir, V., Aysel, V. (2021) New record of the benthic marine mucilage aggregates *Phaeocystis giraudii* from Turkish Eastern Mediterranean Sea. *Journal of the Black Sea/Mediterranean Environment* 27(2): 124-139; Letter to the editor 28(1): 125-126.

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