

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

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In the article by Okudan *et al.* (2021), the authors reported the species *Phaeocystis giraudii*, which causes benthic mucilage, as a new record for Türkiye. In Abstract, they stated “This study presents a new record of *Phaeocystis giraudii* Derbes et Solier (Phaeocystales, Prymnesiophyceae), which forms gelatinous aggregates and is found as clusters in various sea substrates in the coastal zones of Turkey” and in Introduction, “In this study, *Phaeocystis giraudii* is reported for the first time from Turkey, in the central Aegean Sea and Turkish part of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea”. However, *P. giraudii* was reported as its synonym *Chrysoreinhardia giraudii* by Balkis-Ozdelice *et al.* (2021) as a new record from the Sea of Marmara. Considering the submission and acceptance dates of both studies to journals, Balkis-Ozdelice *et al.* (2021) was submitted on 20/05/2021, accepted and published online on 08/06/2021, while Okudan *et al.* (2021) was submitted on 18/06/2021 and accepted on 27/07/2021.

In addition, V. Demir, who is among the authors, reported this species as *C. giraudii* from Kaş on the Mediterranean coast of Türkiye in his Ph.D. thesis (Demir 2011). Taking this into consideration, Balkis-Ozdelice *et al.* (2021) cited Demir (2011) and reported this species as a new record only from the Sea of Marmara, while Okudan *et al.* (2021) did not cite Demir (2011). Since this species was reported from the Sea of Marmara in the article (Balkis-Ozdelice *et al.* 2021) and Kaş in the Ph.D. thesis (Demir 2011), it is clear that the aforementioned species was not a new record from the coastal waters of Türkiye. Therefore, we suggest Okudan *et al.* (2021) should be corrected to report the distribution of this

species in the eastern Mediterranean region of Türkiye as the second regional record after the Sea of Marmara.

References

Balkis-Ozdelice, N., Durmus, T., Balci, M. (2021) A preliminary study on the intense pelagic and benthic mucilage phenomenon observed in the Sea of Marmara. *International Journal of Environment and Geoinformatics* 8(4): 414-422.

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