



Short communication

Occurrence of the nakedband gaper, *Champsodon nudivittis* (Ogilby, 1895) (Osteichthyes: Champsodontidae), in Finike Bay, eastern Mediterranean, Turkey

By D. Erguden and C. Turan

Faculty of Fisheries, Mustafa Kemal University, Iskenderun, Hatay, Turkey

Introduction

The nakedband gaper *Champsodon nudivittis* (Ogilby, 1895) belongs to the Champsodontidae family and is represented by a single genus with 13 valid species confined to the Indo-Pacific region (Nemeth, 1994). *Champsodon nudivittis* is distributed in the Indo-West Pacific Ocean, in tropical waters at depths from 0 to 355 m (Nemeth, 1994; Froese and Pauly, 2011). No detailed information is available on the habitat of this species.

Cicek and Bilecenoglu (2009) recorded the first nakedband gaper, *C. nudivittis*, in February 2008 from a trawl at 50 m depth in the outer area of Iskenderun Bay, northeastern Mediterranean Sea. The presence of *C. nudivittis* in the northeastern Mediterranean was considered as ship-mediated (Cicek and Bilecenoglu, 2009; Bariche, 2010).

In the present paper, we report the first occurrence of *C. nudivittis* from the Finike Bay (eastern Mediterranean, Turkey) and its expansion to the westward coast of Turkey.

Materials and methods

At a depth of 180 m a commercial trawler caught four *C. nudivittis* specimens on 17 January 2011 in Finike Bay (36°17'N–30°10'N; 36°15'E–30°09'E) (Fig. 1). The specimens were preserved in 4% formalin and deposited in the Museum of the Faculty of Fisheries, Mustafa Kemal University (MSM-PIS/2011-1). All morphometric determinations were made to the nearest 0.01 mm using dial callipers. All measurements, counts, morphological descriptions and the colour agree with the descriptions of Nemeth (1994, 2001) and Cicek and Bilecenoglu (2009).

Results and discussion

The specimens ranged from 14.0 to 12.9 cm total length. Meristic data of *C. nudivittis* are: first dorsal fin rays, 4; second dorsal fin rays, 19–20; anal fin rays, 18–19; pectoral fin rays, 14; caudal fin rays, 17–18; first gill arch with one gillraker on upper limb and 10 on lower limb. The distinguishing morphometric characteristics of the four specimens were compared with the previous record (Table 1). The body is elongate, slightly compressed, eyes large, usually with a small posterodorsal cirrus, eye diameter equal or less than snout length, mouth large, oblique; maxilla extending posteriorly to below eye or beyond. Chin naked; a row of 5–9 pairs of sensory papillae on dorsal surface of head from snout to interorbital; sensory papillae between eyes not arranged in a semicircle; ventral margin of pupil indented by tab of the iris. Two horizontal lateral lines comprise several small papillae. Body brownish, dorsally; light brown on the sides and pale at peritoneum; lateral and ventral parts tan or silvery, with dark spots along midline.

Champsodon nudivittis is easily distinguished from other champsodontids by a combination of characters, which mainly include the scale pattern on various parts of the body, arrangement and number of dorsal sensory papillae, degree of notching of the premaxillae and the gillraker counts on the first arch. *Champsodon nudivittis* feeds on zooplankton, especially crustaceans. *Champsodon nudivittis* has no commercial value, but they are often taken along with commercial species; they may be important for prey species such as scombrids and other pelagic predators (Mooi and Johnson, 1997).



Fig. 1. Map of *Champsodon nudivittis* locations, eastern Mediterranean Sea coast of Turkey. Squares (■) new records; Circle (●) previously recorded location

Table 1

Morphometric (cm) measurements of *Champsodon nudivittis* specimens captured January 2011, Finike Bay, eastern Mediterranean Sea (present study data range; mean in parentheses)

Parameters	Present study	Cicek and Bilecenoglu (2009)
n	4	1
Total length (TL), cm	14.0–12.9 (13.5)	11.4
Standard length (SL), cm	12.0–11.3 (12.5)	9.4
SL/Head length (HL)	3.54–3.42 (3.46)	3.48
SL/Body Depth	5.92–5.46 (5.67)	5.11
SL/Pre-dorsal length	2.84–2.65 (2.75)	3.36
SL/Pre-anal length	1.96–1.80 (1.88)	1.92
SL/Pre-pectoral fin length	3.76–3.50 (3.63)	4.95
HL/Eye diameter (ED)	5.79–5.67 (5.72)	4.91
HL/Snout length	4.59–3.91 (4.25)	3.86
Interorbital distance/ED	1.57–1.43 (1.49)	1.22

To date, only two champsodontid species (*C. capensis* Regan, 1908 and *C. omanensis* Regan, 1908) have been reported from the Red Sea (Goren and Dor, 1994). There is no report on the occurrence of *C. nudivittis* in the Red Sea. Therefore the introduction of *C. nudivittis* from the Indo-West Pacific to the Mediterranean Sea is probably due to ship-mediated transport, as suggested by Cicek and Bilecenoglu (2009). The present finding of *C. nudivittis* in the Finike Bay, Eastern Mediterranean Sea, shows that the species has extended westward along the coast of Turkey (distance of range extension: 598 km), indicating the probable establishment of a population in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. Therefore, the role of this newly-established species within the coastal ecosystem and its effect on local populations needs to be the subject of future research.

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- Author's address:** D. Erguden and C. Turan, Faculty of Fisheries, Mustafa Kemal University, TR-31220 Iskenderun, Hatay, Turkey.
E-mails: derguden@yahoo.com and C. Turan: cturan@ymail.com