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ΑΘΗΝΑΙ

Holocentrum rubrum (FORSK) AND *Lagocephalus lagocephalus* (L) TWO NEWLY REPORTED MEMBERS OF THE GREEK FISHFAUNA (Dodecanesian islands)

by Dr K. LASKARIDIS

(Hydrobiological Station H.H.I. Rhodes)

On the 18th May 1947 a single specimen of the fish *Holocentrum rubrum* (Forsk) was taken in a trammel net in the area of the NE end of Rhodes island, in 10 fathoms depth and on a rocky bottom. Previously no fish of this kind had ever been seen by the fishermen. It is only a year ago that the appearance of *Holocentrum rubrum*

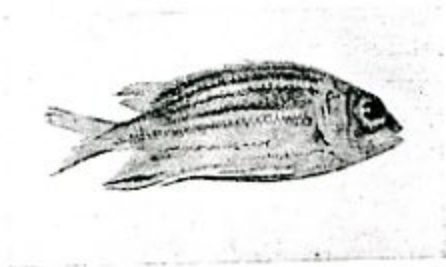


Fig. 1. *Holocentrum rubrum* (Forsk).

(Forsk) in the Mediterranean near the coast of Palestine was reported by Haas and Steinitz (1947). It is known from the Red sea and the Indian and Pacific Oceans. It is probable that its immigration from the Red sea to the E. Mediterranean took place only during the last years.

Characteristics:

Total length: 12,8 cm.

Total weight: 41,0 gr.

D 11/12 A 4/9 P 15 V 1/7 lin. lat. 37 lin. transv. 3/6.

The height of the body as well as the length of the head (opercular spine included) enter 3,5 times into the total length. The diameter of the eye enters 3,3 times into the length of the head. Operculum with two spines, the lower of which is the smaller. The lower

part of the Preoperculum ends in strong spines. All the opercles are serrated and striated in so far as they are not covered with scales. Scales of the body strongly ctenoid.

The general colour of the body is red. On the opercles there are three verticle intense red lines. Along the body there are nine dark longitudinal bands (dark brown to deep red) and between them there are eight bands of light pink to almost white silvery colour. The colour of the pectorals is light red, the base of the ventrals red. The first three soft rays of V have on the upper part a dark brown margin. The third anal spine very strong. Between the second and the third as well as between the third and the fifth spines there is blackish membrane. The rest of the rays are light pink with a yellow orange shade. The dorsal fin membrane is white at the beginning of the base and in the middle, and the rest is red. On the upper part of the first ray of the second dorsal section deep brown. The rest is of orange colour with a pinkish margin. The outer margins of the caudal blackish-brown, the base orange-pinkish and the rays' ends red. (Fig. 1).

With this species the number of erythrean fishes found in Dodecanesian waters to-date is increased to five, as follows:

Siganus rivulatus (Forsk), *Mulloidides auriflamma* (Forsk), *Hemirhamphus marginatus* (Forsk), *Stephanolepis ocheticus* Fr. Brunn, *Holocentrum rubrum* (Forsk).

Lagocephalus lagocephalus (L)

The head enters 3,5 times in the body's length and 2,5 times in the predorsal distance. The interorbital distance is the same as the preocular.

D 14, A 12, P 16, V lacking

Body fusiform and naked. Colour bluish on the back and white on the belly. On the ventral side there are small thornlike structures placed in longitudinal lines. The number of those lines varies from 23 to 25. Each of these needles has as base four rays, arranged crosswise.

The lateral line is divided behind the eye and the two branches meet again after surrounding the eye. Another transverse branch joins the lateral lines of the two sides. (Fig. 2).

On the 12th of May 1947, 3 specimens of this fish of total lengths 19 cm, 20,5 cm and 24 cm were caught by a trawler near the

coast of Asia Minor opposite Rhodes Island and on the 29th of July 1947 another two of total lengths 14 cm and 16,5 cm were caught in

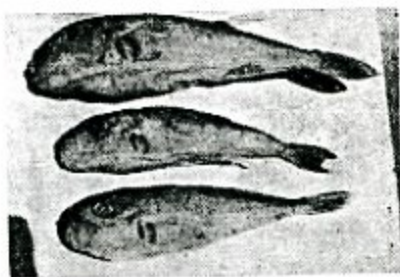


Fig. 2. *Lagocephalus lagocephalus* (L)

the Gulf of Symi, in the northern part of the island. According to fishermen this species lives on pebbly-muddy bottom.

It is known from the S. Mediterranean, Morocco, tropical Africa on the Atlantic side.

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ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΙΣ

Κατὰ τὴν διάρκειαν ἰχθυολογικῶν ἐρευνῶν εἰς τὰ Δωδεκανησιακὰ ὕδατα (1947), ἀνευρέθησαν διὰ πρώτην φοράν εἰς ἑλληνικὴν περιοχὴν μεταξὺ ἄλλων ἰχθύων καὶ τὰ εἶδη *Holocentrum rubrum* (Forsk) καὶ *Lagocephalus lagocephalus* (L). Ἐκ τούτων τὸ πρῶτον εἶδος προελεύσεως Ἐρυθρᾶς Θαλάσσης, ἠλιεύθη παρὰ τὴν θέσιν Ἀκαντιά τῆς Ρόδου διὰ μανωμένων δικτύων ἐπὶ βραχώδους βυθοῦ, τὸ δὲ δεύτερον, γενικῶς τροπικῆς προελεύσεως γνωστὸν ἤδη ἐκ τῆς Ν. Μεσογείου ἠλιεύθη διὰ μηχανότρατας Β. τῆς Σύμης. Ἀμφότερα τὰ εἶδη ταῦτα περιγράφονται ἐνταῦθα.