**PARHYALE EXPLORATOR ARRESTI, 1989 (AMPHIPODA, TALITROIDEA): FIRST MEDITERRANEAN RECORD OF THIS ATLANTIC AMPHIPOD**

**BY**

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**ABSTRACT**

The known geographical distribution of the amphipod, *Parhyale explorator* Arresti, 1989 has been extended with a new record from the Mediterranean Sea. This amphipod was found in September 2005 at the coast of Iskenderun Bay (Levantine Sea, Turkey). The new record reported here is the first confirmation of *P. explorator* currently living in the Mediterranean Sea.

**RÉSUMÉ**

La distribution géographique connue de l’amphipode *Parhyale explorator* Arresti, 1989 a été étendue grâce à un nouveau signalement dans la mer Méditerranée. Cet amphipode a été trouvé en septembre 2005 sur les côtes du golfe d’Iskenderun (Mer du Levant, Turquie). La nouvelle signalisation rapportée ici est la première confirmation de la présence de *P. explorator* en mer Méditerranée.

**INTRODUCTION**

The amphipod fauna of the north-eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean region is one of the best known in the world. The Mediterranean benthic amphipod community is represented by 466 species, but the number of species of benthic amphipods is not distributed homogeneously throughout the various basins of the Mediterranean.

The highest number of species is known from the western basin (95%); in the eastern basin this number drops to 70%, and further to 53% in the Adriatic Sea (Bellan-Santini & Ruffo, 2003). A review of relevant inventory studies indicates,
that *Parhyale explorator* Arresti, 1989 reported herein constitutes a new record for the Mediterranean fauna. The addition of *P. explorator* to the list of Mediterranean amphipods extends the numbers of species known from this area to 467 in total.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

A total of 18 specimens of *Parhyale explorator* was collected from a depth of 0.1 m on the coast of Iskenderun Bay, located along the Levantine coast of Turkey (fig. 1). Photographs and drawings of the specimens are presented in figs. 2-4. The illustrations were made with a microscope with drawing attachment. Specimens were preserved in 70% alcohol and have been deposited in the Fisheries Faculty Museum, Ege University, Izmir (ESFM-MAL/05-2).

**RESULTS AND REMARKS**

*Parhyale explorator* Arresti, 1989
(figs. 2-4)


Material examined. — Two ♂♂ and seven ♀♀, TL ♂ = 7.3 mm, TL ♀ = 6.8 mm, station K1, coast of Iskenderun Bay, Turkish Levantine coast, GPS coordinates 36°45′40″N 36°11′58″E, depth 0.1 m, rocky substratum covered with algae, 15.ix.2005. Two ♂♂ and seven ♀♀, TL ♂ = 7.1 mm, TL ♀ = 6.8 mm, station K2, coast of Iskenderun Bay, Turkish Levantine coast, GPS coordinates 36°54′22″N 35°58′05″E, 0.1 m, among *Brachidontes pharaonis* (P. Fischer, 1870) (Bivalvia) community, 15.ix.2005.

Description of male. — Eyes oval to reniform. Antenna II longer than antenna I. Antenna II ventral margin partially covered with dense setation in both of sexes (fig. 2a-d). Gnathopods I and II distinctly different in size. Gnathopod I propodus similar in length to carpus, palm transverse or almost transverse. Gnathopod II propodus enlarged, palm oblique, propodus with robust palmar angle spines (fig. 2g, h). Pereopods III to VII without large, robust, striated setae on propodus. Pereopod VI to VII without tuft of setae at midlength on posterior margin of propodus. Pereopod VII basis with small flange (distinctly longer than broad). Uropod III ramus longer than or equal to 3/4 of length of peduncle; peduncle proximally widened, with robust distal setae(e); with small, scale-like inner ramus. Telson deeply cleft, shorter than peduncle of uropod 3.

Description of female. — Female (sexually dimorphic characters only). Gnathopods I and II similar in size. Gnathopod I propodus elongate or similar in length to carpus. Gnathopod II, carpus with setae on posterior margin; propodus