

First record of *Callinectes sapidus* Rathbun, 1896 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura) in the Dardanelles, Canakkale, Turkey

Sezginer Tuncer and Sabri Bilgin

Department of Marine Biology, Faculty of Fisheries, Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, TR, 17100, Canakkale, Turkey
E-mail: stuncer@comu.edu.tr; sbilgin@comu.edu.tr

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Abstract

A single mature female specimen of *Callinectes sapidus* was captured on 14 November 2008 off Canakkale, Turkey. This is the first record of the blue crab from the Dardanelles.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, *Callinectes sapidus*, new record, Dardanelles, Turkey

A female *Callinectes sapidus* Rathbun, 1896 (carapace width 138 mm, wet weight 288 g) was captured in a bottom gillnet (mesh 22 mm) off Canakkale, Turkey, on 14 November 2008, at less than 10 m depth, on sandy-mud bottom (40°05'18"N, 26°24'00"E). The specimen was photographed (Figure 1), fixed in 5% formalin and later transferred to 70% ethanol, and deposited in the Piri Reis Marine Museum of Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Canakkale (PRM-DEC / 2008 - 0001).

Callinectes sapidus, native to the North American Atlantic seaboard, was reported from the Mediterranean and Aegean coast of Turkey and was previously reported from the Sea of Marmara (Zaitsev and Ozturk 2001). It was also recorded from Fanarion, Greece, in the northern Aegean Sea (Riedl 1983). The present record from the Dardanelles is not surprising given the species' presence in the northern Aegean Sea and the Sea of Marmara.

Acknowledgements

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References

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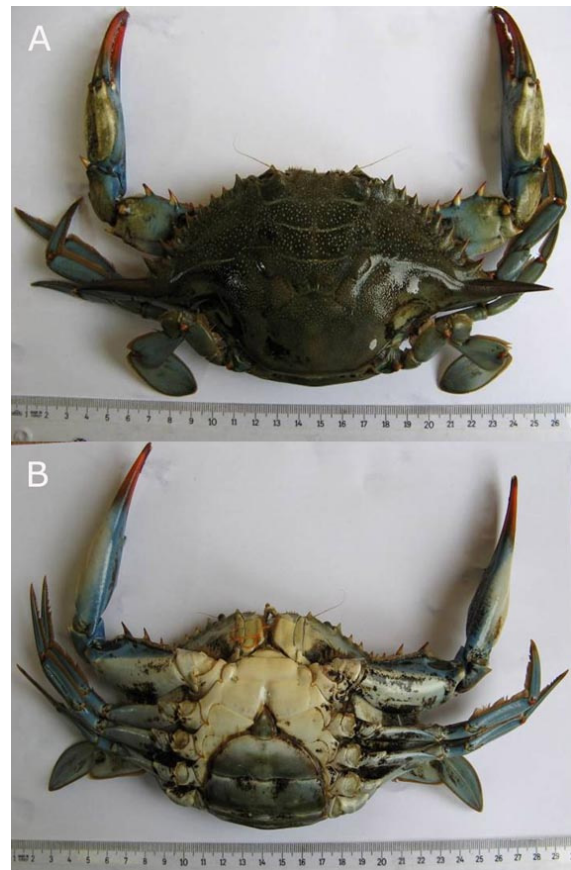


Figure 1. *Callinectes sapidus*, 138 mm TCW, from Dardanelles (PRM-DEC / 2008 - 0001). A: dorsal view, B: ventral view (Photograph by S. Tuncer)