

Aquatic Invasions Records

First report of *Hypselodoris infucata* (Rüppell & Leuckart, 1830) – (Mollusca, Opisthobrancia, Chromodorididae) in the Gulf of Antalya, Levantine coast of Turkey, Eastern Mediterranean

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Abstract

The Indo West Pacific opisthobranch, *Hypselodoris infucata*, first recorded in the Gulf of Iskenderun, Turkey, in 1999, is now reported from the Gulf of Antalya (on 13 July 2010).

Key words: *Hypselodoris infucata*, alien species, Antalya, Turkey, Eastern Mediterranean

Introduction

Çevik et al. (2005) claim that 67 of the 181 recorded molluscan species in Iskenderun Bay, southeastern Turkey, are aliens (37%), a percentage by far higher than anywhere else. Çınar et al. (2005) identified 17 alien opisthobranch species, but their number has risen recently to 21 by 2008 (Aartsen and Goud 2006; Öztürk and Can 2006; Çınar et al. 2006; Gökoglu and Özgür 2008). The present work reports first record of a new alien opisthobranch, *Hypselodoris infucata* (Rüppell & Leuckart, 1830) Fam. Chromodorididae from the Gulf of Antalya.

Materials and methods

A single specimen of *Hypselodoris infucata* (Rüppell & Leuckart, 1830) was collected by a diver on rocky bottom at depth of 5 m in the Gulf of Antalya, on 13 July 2010 (Figure 1). It is deposited at the Fisheries Faculty of Akdeniz University, Turkey. Identification of the species was carried out according to Çevik and Öztürk (2001), Rudman (1977, 1984), Mienis and Gat (1981).

Results and discussion

The recorded specimen was 40 mm long and showed the characteristic red pigmentation on the rhinophores and branchial plume, with the body spotted yellow and blue over a cream or greenish background. The gills formed a two dimensional leaf with a red line along the internal and external edge (Figure 2). Originally described from the Red Sea, the species is common in the Indo-Pacific (Johnson and Valdes 2001). It was first recorded in the Mediterranean in 1965 from Caesarea, Israel, as *Glossodoris runcinata* (Barash and Danin 1977; Mienis 1981). In 1999 it was reported from Yumurtalık Bight, in the Gulf of Iskenderun, Turkey (Çevik and Öztürk 2001), and from Lebanon (Valdes and Templado 2002). In June 2000 it was photographed off Fethiye (Aytur 2003), and in 2007 from Girne, on the north coast of Cyprus (Figure 1) (Personn 2009). Yokeş (2003) observed the species occurs on or around sponges of the genus *Dysidea*, and it is likely its distribution is limited to the few locations on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey where the sponges are plentiful, such as Fethiye, Marmaris, Tekirova or Iskenderun.



Figure 1. Map showing the locality where *Hypselodoris infucata* species was found in Turkey and Cyprus Coasts (latest record in red, see Table 1 for details).



Figure 1. *Hypselodoris infucata* from Lara Beach Gulf of Antalya (Photographs by Levent Yasin Atik).

Table 1. Records of *Hypselodoris infucata* in Turkey and Cyprus coasts.

Record No. (map ref.)	Record coordinates		Record date	Number of individuals	Depth	Collector/Reference
	Latitude, °N	Longitude, °E				
I	31°57'52"	11°57'52"	10.07.1999	4	1	Çevik and Öztürk (1999)
II	36°32'24"	29°03'08"	29.06.2000	1	7	Baki Yokeş (2003)
III	36°46'34.40"	28°14'58.96"	20.07.2000	1	12-18	Orhan Aytur (2003)
IV	35°21'10.48"	33°16'26.63"	16.08.2007	1	15	Henrik Personn (2009)
V	36°52'23.95"	30°42'51.73"	13.07.2010	1	5	Özvarol et al. 2010

The successful invasion through the Suez Canal of a great many Red Sea species into the Mediterranean is seen as a process to which most of these species were preadapted in the littoral environment of the Red Sea (Por 1971). As a result of this invasions many lessepsian molluscs

have been reported to occur on the coasts of the countries (Çevik and Öztürk 2001).

New detailed studies are needed to monitor the alien species and their relation to native and endemic species in the Levantine basin and Suez Canal.

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