

Short Communication

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First observation of *Apogon imberbis* in Izmir Bay, North-eastern Aegean Sea

İzmir Körfezi'nde (Kuzeydoğu Ege Denizi) *Apogon imberbis*'in İlk Gözlemi

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ABSTRACT

Three specimens of the Cardinal fish *Apogon imberbis* were observed on 02 October 2016 in the coast of Karaburun, Izmir Bay during the snorkeling. This short paper constitutes the first record of Cardinal fish from Izmir Bay, NE Aegean Sea.

Keywords: Cardinal fish, *Apogon imberbis*, new record, Izmir Bay, NE Aegean Sea.

ÖZET

Kardinal balığının, *Apogon imberbis* üç bireyi 02 Ekim 2016 tarihinde Karaburun kıyılarında (İzmir Körfezi) şnorkelle dalış sırasında gözlenmiştir. Bu kısa makale, kardinal balığının İzmir Körfezi'nden (Ege Denizi) ilk kaydını vermektedir.

Anahtar sözcükler: Kardinal balığı, *Apogon imberbis*, yeni kayıt, İzmir Körfezi, Ege Denizi

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1. INTRODUCTION

Cardinal fish, *Apogon imberbis* (Linnaeus 1758) is a nocturnal species, forming hover in groups of several individuals to hundreds in caves and crevices at depth to 100 m during the day, whereas at night, they feed on zooplankton away from shelter (Golani et al., 2006). It is Atlanto-Mediterranean and unique native species among the six *Apogon* species, while *Apogonichthyoides pharaonis* (Bellotti 1874), *Jaydia queketti* (Gilchrist, 1903), *J. smithi* Kotthaus, 1970, *Ostorhinchus fasciatus* (White, 1790), *Cheilodipterus novemstriatus* (Rüppell, 1838) are Lessepsian apogonid fishes in the Mediterranean (Golani et al., 2002).

Apogon imberbis is well-known from the SE Aegean Sea. De Raedmaecker et al. (2010) reported from Arki Island, Greece that this was a highly sheltered species and it was found to be an abundant typifying species for the sheltered sites. In a recent study, this fish observed at depths of 20 and 40 m in the artificial reefs (made from concrete tubes), deployed in Gümüldür, Sığacık Bay, SE Aegean Sea (Gül et al., 2011). However, it has not been observed yet in Izmir Bay. Moreover, Akyol et al. (2011) recorded a total of 76 rare and little-known fish species in Izmir Bay between 1969 and 2008, and *A. imberbis* was not available in the list of Izmir Bay fish fauna. The aim of the study was therefore to document the occurrence of a new uncommon fish species recently observed in this ecosystem.

On 02 October 2016, three *A. imberbis* specimens (Figure 1) were photographed by an amateur skin diver from the coasts of Incirlikoy, Karaburun (38.65079° N, 26.52045°E), Izmir Bay at a depth of 2.5 m on a rocky and pebble bottom. Total lengths of these fishes were about 70 mm.

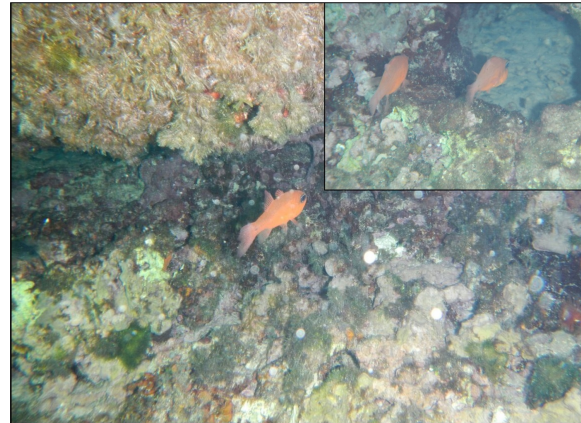


Figure 1. *Apogon imberbis*, sighted in the coast of Karaburun, Izmir Bay, NE Aegean Sea (underwater photograph: O. Öner).

According to expression, three *A. imberbis* were calmly going around the rocks in the shallow waters in the morning. When they were being disturbed by approaching of underwater photographer, they suddenly escaped into the crevices in order to hide (O. Öner, pers. comm.). This interesting fishes are still rare in the area; nevertheless, it is added as a new species in Izmir Bay fish fauna.

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