

# The Decapod Crustacean fauna of the Turkish Seas

by Ahmet Kocataş and Tuncer Katağan

**Abstract.** Since 1965, a total of 193 decapod species has been identified from Turkish seas, bringing the number of species to 220 (75 Natantia, 15 M. Reptantia, 36 Anomura, 94 Brachyura). *Pandalina profunda* and *Richardina fredericii* are recorded for the first time from the Eastern Mediterranean, and another 8 species (*Acantephyra pelagica*, *Plesionika gigliolii*, *Stenopus spinosus*, *Gourretia denticulata*, *Bathynectes maravigna*, *Dorhynchus thomsoni*, *Latreillia elegans*, *Macropipus tuberculatus*) are recorded for the first time from Turkish seas.

**Kurzfassung.** Seit 1965 wurden in den Türkischen Gewässern insgesamt 193 Decapoden-Arten nachgewiesen, womit die Anzahl der Arten nun 220 beträgt (75 Natantia, 15 M. Reptantia, 36 Anomura, 94 Brachyura). *Pandalina profunda* und *Richardina fredericii* werden erstmals aus dem östlichen Mittelmeer gemeldet, und weitere 8 Arten (*Acantephyra pelagica*, *Plesionika gigliolii*, *Stenopus spinosus*, *Gourretia denticulata*, *Bathynectes maravigna*, *Dorhynchus thomsoni*, *Latreillia elegans*, *Macropipus tuberculatus*) erstmals aus Türkischen Gewässern.

**Key words.** Turkey, Black Sea, Bosphorus, Aegean Sea, Mediterranean Sea.

## Introduction

Observations on the Decapoda of Turkey date back as far as the 18<sup>th</sup> century: HASSELQUIST (1757) described *Pontonia pinnophylax* from İzmir Bay and FORSSKÅL (1775) reported four species from Izmir, Istanbul and the Sea of Marmara. Subsequent studies remained anecdotal. DEMIR (1952) provided a list of 49 decapods from the Bosphorus and HOLTHUIS & GOTLIEB (1958) listed the decapod crustaceans of the Eastern Mediterranean, including the Turkish seas. HOLTHUIS (1961, 1987) gave a list of 58 decapod species recorded in the Turkish seas. These latter works served as an important basis for our studies carried out in the Eastern Mediterranean since the 1960s.

Our studies on the carcinofauna of Turkey began in the Aegean Sea in 1965, and were subsequently extended to the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmara, and the Mediterranean Sea, with the research vessels "Hippocampus" and "K. Piri Reis", and local fishing boats. Specimens were collected by hand, dredge, beam-trawl, otter-trawl and mid-water trawl. Nomenclature of the species follows ERMS (2001).

## Results

In the last 35 years, we have identified 193 decapod species, bringing the number of species known from Turkish waters to 220: 75 Natantia, 15 M. Reptantia, 36 Anomura, 94 Brachyura (Tab. 1). Two species (*Pandalina profunda*, *Richardina fredericii*) are new records for the Eastern Mediterranean and another eight species (*Acantephyra pelagica*, *Plesionika gigliolii*, *Stenopus spinosus*, *Gourretia denticulata*, *Bathynectes maravigna*, *Dorhynchus thomsoni*, *Latreillia elegans*, *Macropipus tuberculatus*) are new records for the Turkish fauna.