

## Presence of the *Mesopodopsis slabberi* (Van Beneden, 1861) (Crustacea: Mysida) from the Mediterranean Sea coast of Turkey

### Türkiye'nin Akdeniz Kıyılarında *Mesopodopsis slabberi* (Van Beneden, 1861) (Crustacea: Mysida)'nin varlığı

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**Abstract:** Mysid, *Mesopodopsis slabberi* (Van Beneden, 1861) was for the first time recorded in Iskenderun Bay (eastern Mediterranean). A total of 10 specimens belong to *M. slabberi* was collected at the depths between 0 and 2 m. This paper is on the first record of *M. slabberi* from the Levantine coast of Turkey.

**Keywords:** *Mesopodopsis slabberi*, *Mysida*, *Crustacea*, *İskenderun Bay*, *eastern Mediterranean*

**Öz:** Mısıd, *Mesopodopsis slabberi* (Van Beneden, 1861) İskenderun Körfezi'nde ilk kez kaydedilmiştir. *Mesopodopsis slabberi*'nin toplam 10 bireyi 0-2 m arasındaki derinliklerden toplanmıştır. Bu makale *M. slabberi*'nin Türkiye'nin Levantin kıyılarından ilk kaydı üzerinedir.

**Anahtar kelimeler:** *Mesopodopsis slabberi*, *Mysidaa*, *Crustacea*, *İskenderun Körfezi*, *doğu Akdeniz*

#### INTRODUCTION

Mysids are common motile peracarid crustaceans at shallow coastal waters and estuaries and play an important role as a food resource for many organisms that use these areas as nurseries (Mees and Jones, 1997; Dauvin and Desroy, 2005; Buji and Panampunnayil, 2011). Mysid, *Mesopodopsis slabberi* (Van Beneden, 1861) is classified in the genus, *Mesopodopsis* Czerniavsky, 1882 (Sardo et al. 2005). The taxonomy of the genus *Mesopodopsis* Czerniavsky, 1882 and of the species *slabberi* in particular, has been a matter of controversy. Suprabenthic crustaceans are not easily sampled with conventional samplers like van Veen grab. *M. slabberi* was for the first time recorded in the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmara for Turkish coasts (Demir, 1952). Then, it was found in Izmir and Sigacik Bay (the eastern Aegean Sea) by Katağan 1985 and Katağan and Ledoyer 1979. However, we present

herein the local record of *M. slabberi* for the Turkish Mediterranean coast.

#### MATERIAL AND METHODS

Sampling area was İskenderun Bay (the eastern Mediterranean) (Figure 1). Specimens were obtained by means of a Van veen Grab with the surface area of 0.1 m<sup>2</sup>. Samples were collected in three replicates from sandy-muddy bottoms between 0 and 2 m depths. A total of 10 specimens was collected (12.08.2015) at the 1 and 2 stations (Ceyhan River, eastern Mediterranean) (Figure 1). The species was identified based on Wittmann (1992). The nomenclature for this species follows Worms (2018). Sample specimen was photographed, preserved in formalin of 4%, and deposited in the Museum of the Faculty of Marine Sciences and Technology, Iskenderun Technical University, Iskenderun-Hatay, Turkey (Collection of Dr. T. Özcan).

## RESULTS AND REMARKS

*M. slabberi* is easily distinguished and has a slender transparent body. Its eyes are of an uncommon length-twice longer than the diameter of the carapace in the gastric region (Wittmann 1992, Sardo et al. 2005) (Figure 2).

Suprabenthic mysid, *M. slabberi* was found in coastal areas where there is input of freshwater. The species was observed only in summer samples in spite of seasonal sampling strategy. Total body length of specimens (from the tip of the rostrum to the tip of the

telson) obtained varied between 2.2 and 8.4 mm. Mysid, *M. slabberi* is common in oligohaline, brackish, coastal marine, and weakly metahaline waters in the salinity range of 1.3-43‰ salinity without unit (Wittmann, 1992; Mees and Jones, 1977; Mouny et al. 2000).

*M. slabberi*, plays an important role in the trophic food web as it is consumed by many fish species (e.g. sand smelt, common goby, mullet and sea bass) (Greenwood et al. 1989; Delgado et al. 1997; Bartulovic et al. 2004) and therefore it can be considered as an important prey for fishes in the study area. Bartulović et al. (2004) mentioned that *M. slabberi* is an important prey item for fish, *Atherina boyeri* Risso, 1810 on the Croatia coast (the east Adriatic Sea).

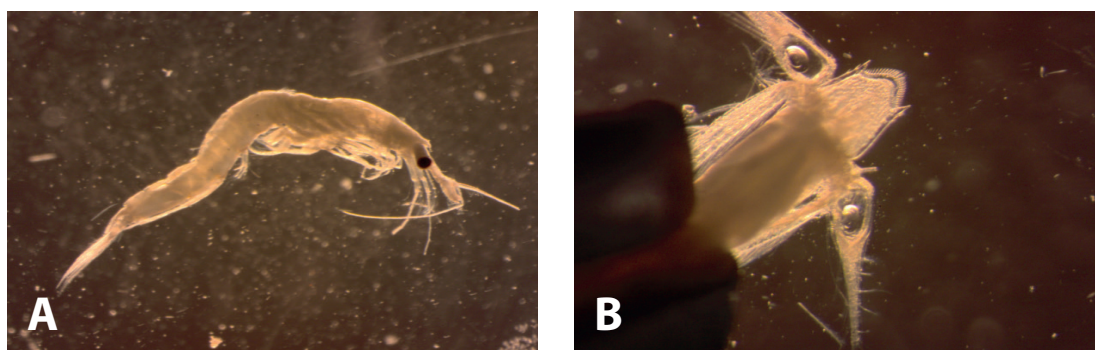
According to previous references, approximately 32 mysid species (Turkish Black Sea: 5, the Turkish Strait System: 14, Turkish Aegean Sea: 26, Turkish Mediterranean Sea: 3) are known from the Turkish coast and among these 3 species occurred on the Levantine Sea coast Turkey (Bakır et al. 2014). With this new record, the number of mysid species known from the Levantine Sea coast of Turkey increased to 4. Consequently, this study focuses on the first presence of *M. slabberi* from the Levantine coast of Turkey.



**Figure 1.** Map showing the sampling location (1: plus, +; 2: inverted triangle, ▼)

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**Figure 2.** *Mesopodopsis slabberi* (Van Beneden, 1861), A; Dorsal view B; Telson view, (photographed by Dr. T. Özcan).

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