

Some rare fishes from the Greek sea waters

Neke rijetke ribe grčkog mora

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INTRODUCTION

During the last years, the ichthyological collection of the Zoological laboratory of the University of Patras has been enriched with new species from the sea area of W Greece as well as with species from the sea area of SE Aegean.

The purpose of this attempt is, as much as possible, material to be collected from different regions of Greece for an entire research of systematic and geographical distribution of species.

Among the fish species added to the collections of Zoological laboratory, of special interest are three species, which are new for the Greek fish fauna.

They are *Lavarus imperialis*, *Cubiceps gracilis* and *Rhombochirus osteochir*.

Lavarus imperialis Raf., 1810

One female specimen (135 cm T. L.) was captured on February 4, 1981, using a long line near the sea shore of Kato Achaia, Patraikos gulf (map I1) at depth of 50 meters.

It was brought to the laboratory and preserved in a 10% formalin solution, for further taxonomical study.

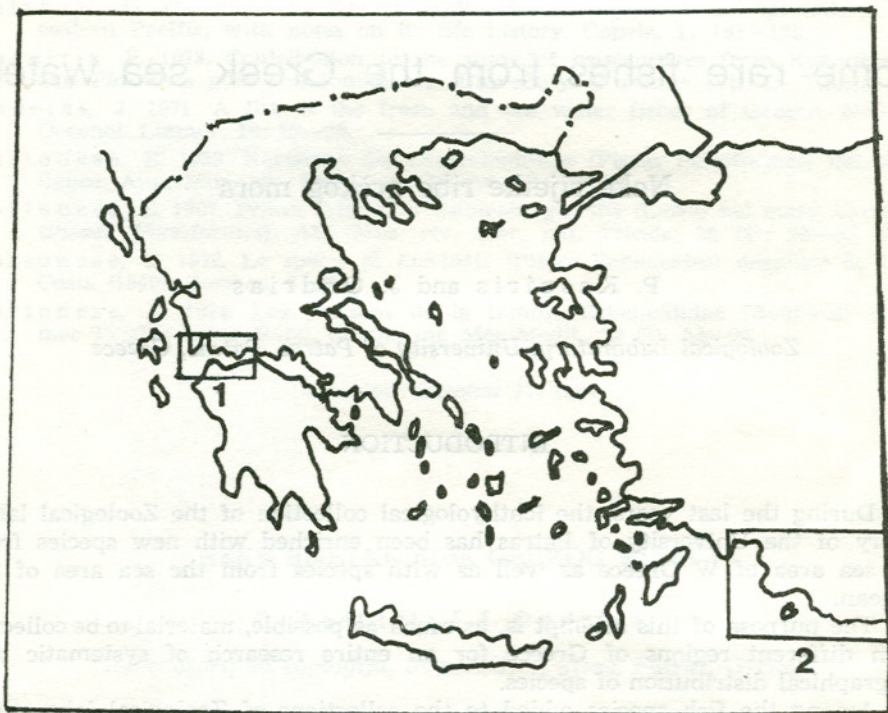
L. imperialis has until now been known to occur in NE Pacific ocean (Japan, Australia, Chile), E Atlantic, W Mediterranean and Adriatic.

After our finding of this species in Patraikos gulf, its distribution extends more SE in the Mediterranean.

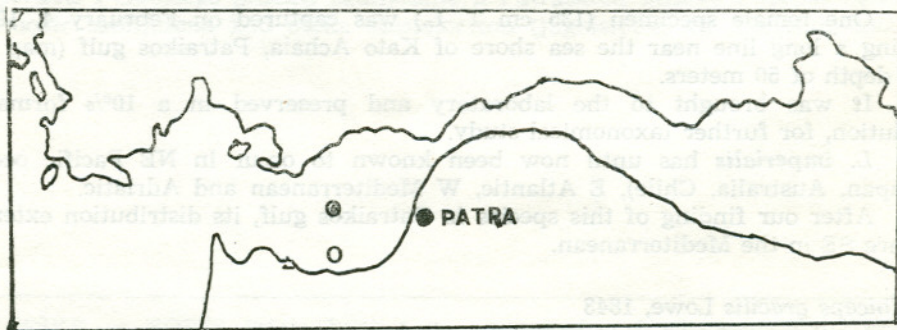
Cubiceps gracilis Lowe, 1843

One young individual (130 mm T. L.) of this species was caught on July 1891 in Patraic gulf (map I1) by gill nets.

It was brought to the laboratory and preserved in 10% formalin solution. According to the most recent information, this species has been unknown to the Greek fish fauna (Ondrias, 1971; Economidis, 1973 and Kaspiris, 1973).



Map I. Square lined regions are those of Patraic gulf (1) and Kastellorizon (2), where the specimens were caught.



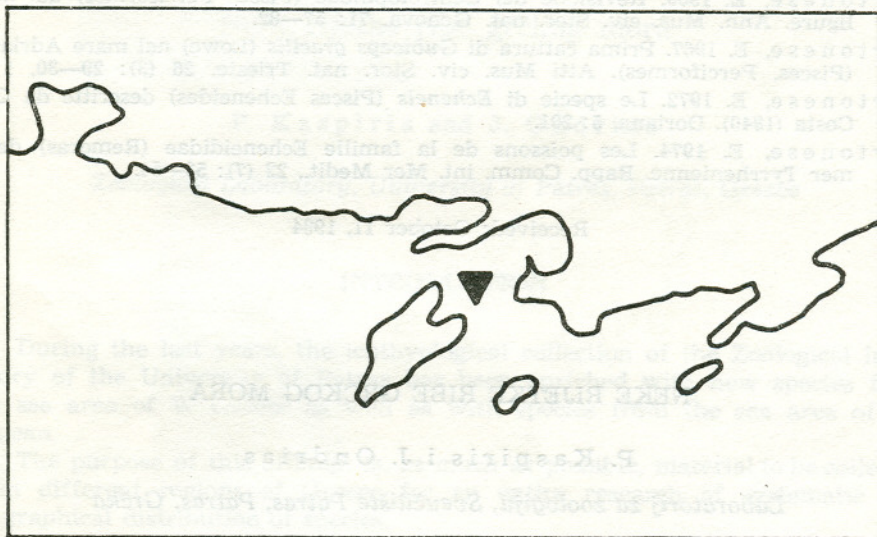
Map II. Patraic gulf with the two localities, where the specimens of *Luvarus imperialis* (○) and *Cubiceps gracilis* were caught (⊙).

In general cubiceps fishes are rare and little known; they are mentioned in the western Mediterranean, central and eastern Atlantic ocean and western Pacific (Philippines islands) with discontinued distribution.

In Adriatic sea Tortonese (1970) reported the presence of this species in the gulf of Trieste, previously known in the Mediterranean only from Ligurian sea (Alassio, Sicily and the coasts of France, Spain and Algeria).

Rhombochirus osteochir Cuv., 1829

This species was caught on August 1980 in the waters of the island Kastellorison (SE Aegean sea) (map I2).



Map. I2. Kastellorison island near the Turkish coasts were the specimen of *Rhombochirus osteochir* was caught (▲).

This single specimen (176 mm T. L.) together with other specimens of *Echeneis naucratis* were found attached to the bodies of big sword-fishes (*Xiphias gladius*).

R. osteochir resembles to and many times is confused with other *Echeneidae* species. It is however distinguished from them because of its following features:

- a) Pectoral fin rays are rigid
- b) Shape of pectorals trapezoid and not pointed on the tors
- c) Anal fin ends steeply and
- d) The disc of the head with seventeen pairs of laminae; the disc ends behind the tops of the pectorals.

The distribution of *Rhombochirus osteochir* is wide enough, however, it is unknown in the Greek fish fauna (Economidis, 1973 and Ondrias, 1972) as well as in the eastern Mediterranean basin.

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KRATKI SADRŽAJ

Autori bilježe tri nove vrste za morsku faunu riba Grčke. To su: *Luvarus imperialis* i *Cubiceps gracilis* zabilježene u Patraškom zaljevu i *Rhombochirus osteochir* zabilježena kod otoka Kastelorizon (jugoistočni dio Egejskog mora).

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