



Contribution to the knowledge of Polyclads (Platyhelminthes, Polycladida) from Sinop Peninsula (western Black Sea, Turkey)

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The information about diversity and distribution of free-living flatworm in the coast of Turkey, especially the coast of the Black Sea, is very limited. The present work was carried out in order to contribute to the knowledge of the free-living flatworm fauna of the Turkish Black Sea. The material was obtained among mussel beds from five stations between October 2013 and July 2014. The mussel beds were collected as three replicates at each station in 4-5 m depth by scraping off an area of 400 cm⁻² using a spatula. The morphological and histological analysis of flatworms yielded the presence of three polyclad species belonging to the two sub-orders Acotylea and Cotylea. Among them, *Echinoplana celerrima* Haswell, 1907 is firstly reported from the Black Sea and all Turkish coasts. *Leptoplana tremellaris* (Müller OF, 1773) and *Prosthiostomum siphunculus* Delle Chiaje (1822) are also new records for the coast of the Black Sea of Turkey. The morphological and histological characteristics of these species together with their ecological and distributional aspects are provided.

Key words: Polyclads, new records, benthos, diversity, ecology, Black Sea

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