The Lessepsian migrant, the Red-eye Round Herring, *Etrumeus teres* (DeKay, 1842), a new record from Cyprus

by Daniel Golani

Abstract: The Lessepsian (Red Sea) migrant *Etrumeus teres* was recorded for the first time from Cyprus. The species is common in Cyprus and is caught in commercial fisheries.

Kurzfassung: Der Fisch *Etrumeus teres*, der im Zuge der Lessepschen Wanderung das Mittelmeer erreicht hat, wurde erstmals für Zypern nachgewiesen. Die Art ist in den Gewässern um die Insel häufig und wird kommerziell genutzt.

Key words: Lessepsian migration, *Etrumeus teres*, Cyprus, Middle East.

Introduction

During a visit to the fishing port of Limassol, Cyprus, on 22 July 1999, the author observed a few dozen specimens of *Etrumeus teres* (DeKay, 1842) in the commercial catch of trammel nets, which, according to local fishermen, had been set at approx. 50 m. This finding constitutes the first record of this species from Cyprus. Two specimens, 138 and 213 mm SL, were collected, preserved and deposited in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Fish Collection and given the catalogue number HUJ 18422 (Fig. 1). *E. teres* is apparently well established in Cypriot waters, since many specimens were observed in the local market. Three additional specimens (177–200 mm SL) were purchased there and deposited in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Fish Collection under HUJ 18423.

Description

The description is based on Cypriot specimens: Number of dorsal rays 17–20; anal rays 9–10; pectoral rays 15–17; pelvic rays 8–10. Longitudinal scales 52–55. Body elongated, cylindrical in its anterior part, becoming somewhat compressed towards the tail, its depth 14.9–19.9% of SL. Belly rounded without a mid-ventral series of scutes. Dorsal fin origin before midpoint. Pelvic fin small, its origin behind end of dorsal fin, a single W-shaped scute in its base. Caudal fin deeply forked. Large head (22.4–25.1% of SL). Terminal mouth. Eye large (30.1–35.0% of head length), completely covered by a transparent eyelid. Cycloid scales easily detached.

Zoology in the Middle East 20, 2000: 61–64.
ISSN 0939-7140 © Max Kasparek Verlag, Heidelberg