

Polyplacophora (Mollusca) from the Aegean coast of Turkey

by Bilal Öztürk, Zeki Ergen and Mesut Önen

Abstract: This study has been conducted in order to determine the Polyplacophoran species occurring along the Aegean coasts of Turkey. As a result of collecting carried out in different habitats at 21 selected locations, 11 species were identified: *Lepidopleurus cajetanus*, *L. scabridus*, *Ischnochiton rissoi*, *Callochiton septemvalvis euplaeae*, *Lepidochitona cinerea*, *L. corrugata*, *L. monterosatoi*, *Chiton corallinus*, *Ch. olivaceus*, *Acanthochitona crinita*, and *A. fascicularis*. Of these species, *Lepidopleurus scabridus* is reported for the first time from Turkey, and *Chiton corallinus* is new for the Aegean fauna of Turkey.

Kurzfassung: In dieser Arbeit wurde die Polyplacophoren-Fauna an der Ägäis-Küste der Türkei untersucht. Aufsammlungen in verschiedenen Biotopen an 21 verschiedenen Stellen erbrachten insgesamt 11 Arten: *Lepidopleurus cajetanus*, *L. scabridus*, *Ischnochiton rissoi*, *Callochiton septemvalvis euplaeae*, *Lepidochitona cinerea*, *L. corrugata*, *L. monterosatoi*, *Chiton corallinus*, *Ch. olivaceus*, *Acanthochitona crinita* und *A. fascicularis*. Davon ist *Lepidopleurus scabridus* neu für die Türkei und *Chiton corallinus* neu für die türkische Ägäis.

Key words: Mollusca, Polyplacophora, Aegean Sea, Mediterranean, Turkey.

Introduction

The Class Polyplacophora is represented by about 800 species in the seas of the world (POPPE & GOTO 1991), and by 24 species in the Mediterranean (SABELLI et al. 1990). Members of this class are generally found within depths of 35–40 m from the sublittoral zone (GAGLINI 1989); however, there are species, such as *Lepidopleurus benthus*, that occur at depths of 4200 m (FISHER-PIETTE & FRANC 1960).

Many studies have been carried out on the Polyplacophora fauna of the Mediterranean Sea, or at least include material collected there: FORBES (1844), BARASH & DANIN (1977b, 1989, 1992), LELOUP (1980), STRACK (1988, 1990, 1993), GHISOTTI & SABELLI (1970), VAN BELLE (1983–1988), ZENETOS & VAN AARTSEN (1995), and BUZZURRO & GREPPI (1996). Information on the coasts of Turkey is based on researches by DEMIR (1952), OBERLING (1969–1971), KOCATAŞ (1978), VAN BELLE (1983–1988), TRINGALI & VILLA (1990), and BUZZURRO & GREPPI (1996).

According to these studies, 15 species have been reported from the Aegean Sea. Ten of these are known from the coasts of Turkey.