

A new locality for the freshwater jellyfish *Craspedacusta sowerbyi* Lankester, 1880 in Turkey

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Abstract: The freshwater jellyfish *Craspedacusta sowerbyi* was found regularly at Topçam Reservoir, Aydın province, Turkey, between June 1999 and June 2000. It is thought that the species has been unintentionally introduced into the reservoir together with fishes. This is one of the first records for Turkey.

Kurzfassung: Die Süßwassermeduse *Craspedacusta sowerbyi* wurde zwischen Juni 1999 und Juni 2000 regelmäßig im Topçam-Stausee in der Provinz Aydın, Türkei, gefunden. Es wird angenommen, dass die Art zusammen mit Fischen unabsichtlich eingeschleppt wurde. Es handelt sich um einen der ersten Nachweisen in der Türkei.

Key words: Medusae, *Craspedacusta*, Topçam Reservoir, Turkey, Middle East.

The freshwater jellyfish *Craspedacusta sowerbyi* Lankester, 1880 is an abundant and widespread freshwater Cnidarian. Except for the Antarctic, it occurs on all continents and subcontinents including many major and minor islands (DUMONT 1994). It is also well known in European inland waters (HONEGGER 1978, REISINGER 1972). In a review of the species' world distribution, DUMONT (1994) mentions two localities in Turkey: one in İstanbul (aquarium occurrences), the other in the Euphrates-Tigris region (probably Keban Reservoir). In addition, there is an unpublished report by the State Water Authority D.S.İ. (Devlet Su İşleri) which mentions the existence of *C. sowerbyi* in Keban Reservoir (ANONYMOUS 1983).

We found this species regularly in Topçam Reservoir, Aydın province, in southwestern Anatolia, between June 1999 and June 2000. The reservoir is located in the Büyük Menderes River Basin; it was constructed for irrigation and flood prevention, and is fed by Topçam brook and precipitation. Because of irrigation, the water level decreases in late spring and summer every year. When the rainfalls begin in winter, water level increases.

The medusae were obtained at one specific site; none were found at another station which was also regularly surveyed throughout the year. The medusae were observed in large numbers, swimming gently just below the water-surface in the late summer and autumn months. No polyp stages were recorded. Some physico-chemical parameters of the surface water were measured on 30.09.1999 and 26.10.1999: The temperature was 26/21°C, the dissolved oxygen 7.6/5.4 mg/l, the O₂ saturation 104/67%, pH 8.8/7.6, transparency 160/140 cm, and the conductivity 152/138 µS at 25°C. Maximum depths of the stations were 30 m at the first station and 3 m at the second one.