

Mediterranean Sea since the 1970's (Peinert & Miquel, 1994; Fernandez de Puelles *et al.*, 2007). In the eastern Mediterranean Sea, *S. maxima* has been reported from the coastal waters of Egypt (Abdel-Aziz & Aboul-Ezz, 2003) and the north Levantine Sea (Mutlu, 2005). The species was not collected at three sites of the Levantine Sea (south of Kriti and Cyprus) in June 1993 (Weikert & Godeaux, 2008) and its presence is hitherto unknown in other regions of the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

## 2.5. First record of *Felimida britoi* (Ortea & Perez, 1983) and *Berghia coerulescens* (Laurillard, 1830) (Gastropoda, Opisthobranchia) from the Aegean Sea

By D. Poursanidis and D. Koutsogiannopoulos

The genus *Felimida* Ev. Marcus, 1971 is comprised of 28 species worldwide (Bouchet & Caballer, 2013), 8 of which are known from the Mediterranean Sea (CLEMAM, 2013). The species of this genus, before the molecular phylogeny approach adopted by Johnson & Gosliner (2012), belonged to the bulk genus *Chromodoris* Alder & Hancock, 1855 under the family Chromodorididae Bergh, 1891. *Felimida britoi* has been documented from the western (e.g. Spain: Cervera *et al.*, 2004, the central (e.g. Italy: Cattaneo-Vietti *et al.*, 1990) and the eastern Mediterranean Sea (e.g. Lebanon and Israel: Cattaneo-Vietti *et al.*, 1990; Crocetta *et al.*, 2013) but records from the Aegean Sea were lacking; Koutsoubas *et al.* (1993) have only listed 3 species for the area [*F. krohni* (Vérany, 1846), *F. luteorosea* (Rapp, 1827) and *F. purpurea* (Risso in Guérin, 1831)].

*Felimida britoi* (Fig. 6) was found in summer 2010 in Anissaras (Chersonissos, Irakleion, Kriti, 35,3385 N, 25,3844 E). The habitat comprised of medium coarse sand with patches of dense *Posidonia* meadows and big rocks with photophilous vegetation (*Cystoseira* spp.). The specimen was found at 4 meters depth, crawling on the rocky areas, in the shady part. The specimen was col-



**Fig. 6:** *Felimida britoi* (Ortea & Perez, 1983) from Anissaras (Chersonissos, Irakleion, Kriti).

lected and is deposited in the Invertebrate collection of the Natural History Museum of Kriti ([www.nhmc.uoc.gr](http://www.nhmc.uoc.gr)) in 96% alcohol (NHMC 52.117).

The genus *Berghia* Trinchese, 1877 is composed of 11 species worldwide (Gofas, 2013), 4 of which are known from the Mediterranean Sea (CLEMAM, 2013). *Berghia coerulescens* has been documented from the western (e.g. Spain: Cervera *et al.*, 2004) and the central Mediterranean Sea (e.g. Monaco: Cattaneo-Vietti *et al.*, 1990), including the Adriatic Sea (Lipej *et al.*, 2008).

*Berghia coerulescens* (Fig. 7) was found in the



**Fig. 7:** *Berghia coerulescens* (Laurillard, 1830) from Plaka (Dilesi, Voiotia).

southern Evvoikos Gulf, in the area of Plaka (Dilesi, Voiotia, 38,3506 N, 23,6661 E) during spring 2013 by the second author. The specimen has not been collected but many underwater photographs have been taken, using a CANON G10 compact camera with the associated underwater housing.

## 2.6. On the occurrence of the dusky shark *Carcharhinus obscurus* in Calabria (Central Mediterranean, Southern Italy)

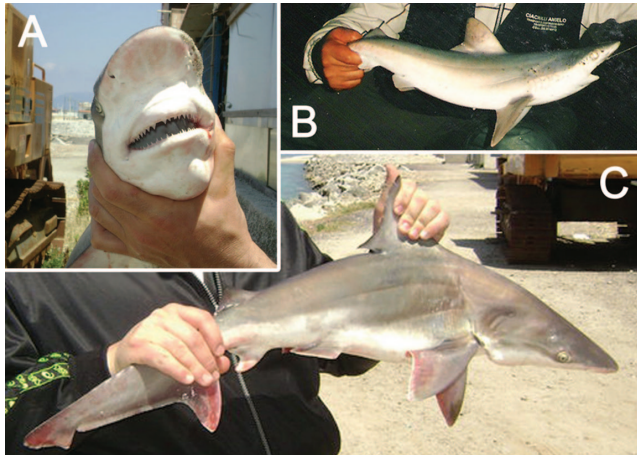
By E. Sperone, F. Coppola, G. Giglio, V. Circosta, P. Micarelli, S. Tripepi and L.J.V. Compagno

The dusky shark (*Carcharhinus obscurus*) is a large apex predator (3.65 m, total length, TL) with a cosmopolitan distribution (Compagno *et al.*, 2005). The life history of this shark is characterized by a long life-span (55 yr), slow growth ( $k = 0.037$ ), late maturity (29.6 yr) and low fecundity (two female offspring per year), which renders populations particularly slow to recover from additional mortality, such as that induced by fisheries (McAuley *et al.*, 2007; Romine *et al.*, 2009; Rogers *et al.*, 2013).

This species has been rarely found in the Mediterranean (Serena, 2005; Sperone *et al.*, 2012): most records are from the western and central-southern regions, along

the North African coasts and the Strait of Sicily. It is likely that this species ranges further east in the Ionian Sea and Levantine Basin (Fergusson & Compagno, 2000).

Two records of the dusky shark (Fig. 8) were obtained during an opportunistic field survey along the Calabrian coasts (Southern Italy, Central Mediterranean): one from



**Fig. 8:** Specimens of *Carcharhinus obscurus* from Calabria. A and C: specimen from Vibo Marina; B: specimen from Trebisacce.

Vibo Marina (1 specimen, Tyrrhenian side of Calabria, coordinates: 38°40' N, 16°03' E, total length: 77 cm) and one from Trebisacce (4 specimens, Ionian side of Calabria, coordinates: 39°52' N, 16°32' E; total lengths: from a minimum of about 68 cm to a maximum of about 82 cm). According to Compagno *et al.* (2005), all captured specimens can be considered newborns, since their total lengths are included in the range 69-100 cm. Both records are the first evidence for the presence of the species in the Calabrian seas. The record from Vibo Marina (Fig. 8A, 8C) confirms the presence of the dusky shark in the Central-Western Mediterranean, while that from Trebisacce (Fig. 8B) represents the first record of the species in the Ionian Sea, and the confirmation of the presence of the dusky shark in the Eastern Mediterranean, as suggested by Fergusson & Compagno (2000). Furthermore, the presence of newborns makes us assume that some characteristics of the Calabrian coast could be considered as favouring the concentration of young individuals. These records confirm the role played by the Central Mediterranean as regards the monitoring and conservation of marine biodiversity, since this area represents a strategic site for monitoring biological exchanges between the W and E Mediterranean (Nicolaidou *et al.*, 2012; Sperone *et al.*, 2012; Thessalou *et al.*, 2012).

It is also critical to identify and to assess the status of the main nursery areas for most of the coastal elasmobranchs, to guide future conservation efforts and underline the importance of shark protection.

## 2.7. Two young basking sharks, *Cetorhinus maximus* (Gunnerus, 1765), caught in the Levantine basin off the Turkish coast (eastern Mediterranean Sea)

By H. Kabasakal

The presence of the basking shark, *Cetorhinus maximus* (Gunnerus, 1765), in the Mediterranean basin has been recorded since 1795 (Mancusi *et al.*, 2005). According to Serena (2005), basking shark presence in the eastern Mediterranean is rare. Although the first documented record of *C. maximus* off the Turkish coast has been reported by Kideys (1997), based on incidental captures of two individuals in May 1995, a recent survey revealed that historical occurrence of this species in the mentioned region dates back to the 1950's (Kabasakal, 2004). Recent surveys confirmed the current presence of *C. maximus* along the Turkish coastline (Kabasakal, 2004; 2009). In this note, the author reports on two young basking sharks caught off the eastern Mediterranean Turkish coast. Species identification is based on the following descriptive characters (Compagno, 1984; Serena, 2005): 5 extremely long gill slits nearly encircling the head; moderately long, pointed and conical snout; presence of minute hooked teeth on both jaws; presence of gill rakers on internal gill slits; caudal peduncle with strong lateral keels.

On 30 December 2006, a basking shark was incidentally caught by a stationary net set in the coastal waters of İskenderun Bay (36°26'22" N, 34°10'43" E). Total length of the basking shark was approximately 300 cm. Weight and sex of the individual is not known. After landing, the basking shark was delivered to the fish market for displaying to the public before an auction. According to statement made by the fisherman who caught the basking shark and intended to sell it, the specimen might have been eviscerated and sold.

On 7 April 2012, a male basking shark (Fig. 9) has been incidentally caught by a coastal gill-netter just 50 m off Erdemli coast (36°37'17" N, 36°03'52" E), at depth



**Fig. 9:** Specimen of *Cetorhinus maximus* caught on 7 April 2012.