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First record of *Aperiovula adriatica* (G.B. Sowerby I, 1828) (Gastropoda, Caenogastropoda, Ovulidae) in the Sea of Marmara, Turkey

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Aperiovula adriatica (G.B. Sowerby I, 1828) is recorded for the first time in the Sea of Marmara, Turkey. A live specimen is described.

Key words: Gastropoda, Caenogastropoda, Ovulidae, *Aperiovula adriatica*, Sea of Marmara, Turkey.

One of the most popular families amongst collectors, ovulids are generally found in deep waters, where they associated with corals or sea fans (Poppe & Goto, 1991; Dance, 1992). According to Sabelli et al. (1990), the Ovulidae are represented by eight species in the Mediterranean Sea, and two of these, *Aperiovula adriatica* (G.B. Sowerby I, 1828) and *Pseudosimnia carnea* (Poiret, 1789), are also recorded from Turkish seas (Demir, 2003). In the present paper, *A. adriatica* is reported for the first time from the Sea of Marmara, a northern extension of the Mediterranean basin.

On 5 September 2001, a dredge hauling on a sandy-coralligene bottom at a depth of 61 m in the southwestern Sea of Marmara (fig. 1), yielded a live specimen of *Aperiovula adriatica* (fig. 2). The shell was identified following Nordsieck (1968), Parenzan (1970), Riedl (1983), and Poppe & Guido (1991). Nomenclature follows Sabelli et al. (1990). The single examined shell is kept in the personal collection of the first author and the following description is based on this specimen.

Aperiovula adriatica (G.B. Sowerby I, 1828) (fig. 2)

Pseudosimnia adriatica; Nordsieck, 1968: 101, fig. 61.11. Parenzan, 1970: 148, fig. 579. Riedl, 1983: 284, fig. *Aperiovula adriatica*; Sabelli et al., 1990: 27. Poppe & Guido, 1991: 125, pl. 20 figs 7-10.

The shell is ovate, fragile and convoluted; the spire is completely covered (height: 23.85 mm). The aperture is narrow and elongated, with a canal at both ends. A spiral

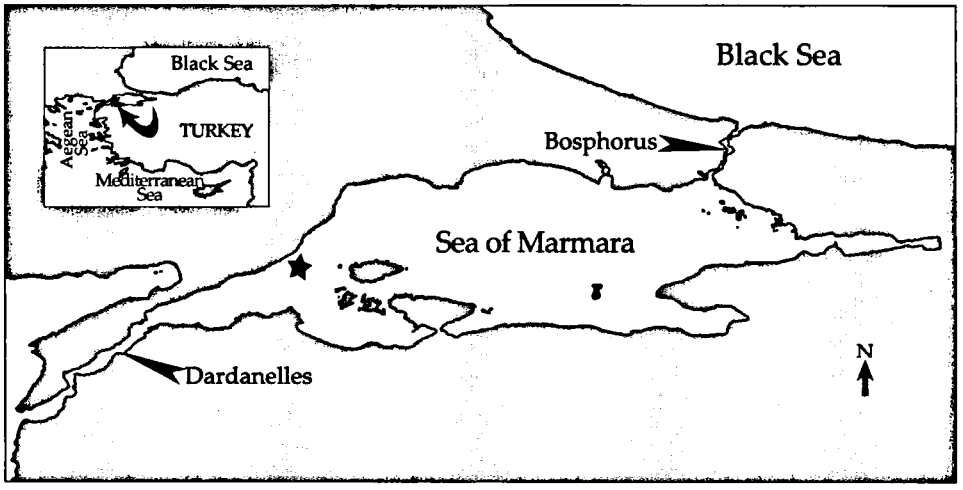

Fig. 1. Map indicating the sampling location (*) in the Sea of Marmara.

thread-like furrow is present in the upper canal, while the outer surface of the lower canal is covered by very faint striae. The outer lip is clearly margined with a prominent varix; unevenly spaced numerous fine labial teeth are seen on the inner edge of the outer lip. The inner lip is smooth, with a columellar callus well-extended towards the whorl; the columellar callus is defined with an undulated line. A prominent tooth-like projection is seen on the columellar callus, near the upper canal. Although the dorsal surface of the shell appears to be almost smooth, very fine spiral striae, which can only be seen with a lens, are present near the canals. The shell is uniformly whitish. The animal is pale orange.

The distribution of *A. adriatica* was previously reported by Poppe & Goto (1991: 125), and Koutsoubas et al. (1997) as western, central and southern Mediterranean Sea. It was recorded from the Aegean Sea for the first time by Koutsoubas et al. (1997), and according to these authors, *A. adriatica* is a Mediterranean endemic. Nordsieck (1968) reported that *A. adriatica* is a rare species. Demir (2003) also recorded this species from the Aegean Sea and this was the first recording of *A. adriatica* from Turkish seas. The present recording extends the range of this ovulid to the Sea of Marmara, a northeastern extension of the Mediterranean basin. This is the second record from Turkish waters and the third one from the eastern Mediterranean.

Very few studies on the malacofauna of the Sea of Marmara have been carried out to date (e.g., Demir, 1952-1954; Oberling, 1969-1971), and all these researches were focused on beached or coastal molluscs. Acting like a biological barrier, a biological corridor or an acclimatization zone, the Sea of Marmara plays a significant role in the dispersal of species between the Aegean and Black Seas (Öztürk & Öztürk, 1996).

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Fig. 2. *Aperiovula adriatica* (G.B. Sowerby I, 1828) from the Sea of Marmara; height 23.85 mm.

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