



The Maximum Length Record of the Blackspot Seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo* Brünnich, 1768) for the Entire Aegean Sea and Turkish Territorial Waters

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p><i>Research Article</i></p> <p>Received : 11/05/2020 Accepted : 29/06/2020</p> <p>Keywords: Sparidae <i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i> Blackspot Seabream Maximum Length Aegean Sea</p>	<p>The maximum length, weight, and age information of organisms in an ecosystem, moreover, the first records of migrated exotic species are essential in terms of the basis for the studies on population dynamics, stock assessment, and biological activities. Therefore, the recording of such data may be necessary for scientific databases and new related studies. The Blackspot seabream (Red seabream - <i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>), which belongs to the Sparidae family, is an important seafood which is marketed fresh and frozen around the Mediterranean and the Aegean seas. Nowadays, this species has high prices depending on market demands in domestic markets as a result of overfishing and is also cultured in northern Spain. It is classified as "Near Threatened Species" in the red list due to its decreasing population trend by the IUCN. A single specimen of the Blackspot seabream with 30.7 cm in total length and 390.00 g in total weight, which was angled in the Saros Bay with a handline by a fisherman on February 08, 2019, was obtained from a fishmonger in Çanakkale. Even though there are bigger individuals in the North-east Atlantic probably depending on polar and/or deep-sea gigantism, the mentioned measurement is the proven maximum total length of this species for the Aegean Sea up to the time.</p>

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Tüm Ege Denizi ve Türk Karasuları için Mandagöz Mercan'ın (*Pagellus bogaraveo* Brünnich, 1768) Maksimum Total Boy Kaydı

MAKALE BİLGİSİ	ÖZ
<p><i>Araştırma Makalesi</i></p> <p>Geliş : 11/05/2020 Kabul : 29/06/2020</p> <p>Anahtar Kelimeler: Sparidae <i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i> Mandagöz Mercan Maksimum Boy Ege Denizi</p>	<p>Bir ekosistemdeki canlılara ait maksimum boy, ağırlık ve yaşın bilinmesi, ayrıca göç ile gelen yabancı türlerin ilk kayıtlarının oluşturulması; popülasyon dinamiği, stok tahmini ve biyolojik aktiviteler üzerine yapılan çalışmaların temelini oluşturması açısından önemlidir. Bu nedenle, bu tür verilerin kaydedilmesi, bilimsel veri tabanı oluşturulabilmesi ve tür ile ilgili yeni çalışmalar için gerekli olabilir. Sparidae familyasının bir türü olan Mandagöz mercan (<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>), Akdeniz ve Ege çevresinde taze ve dondurulmuş olarak pazarlanan önemli bir deniz ürünüdür. Günümüzde bu tür, aşırı avlanma sonucu iç piyasalardaki taleplere bağlı olarak yüksek fiyatlara sahiptir ve kuzey İspanya'da kültürü de yapılmaktadır. Azalan popülasyon eğilimi nedeniyle, IUCN tarafından kırmızı listede, Yakın Tehdit Altındaki Türler (NT) listesine dahil edilmiştir. 08 Şubat 2019 tarihinde, bir balıkçı tarafından Saroz Körfezi'nde olta ile yakalanan 30,7 cm total boya ve 390,00 gr ağırlığa sahip bir adet Mandagöz mercan balığı, Çanakkale'deki bir balık satıcısından temin edilmiştir. Muhtemelen polar ve/veya derin deniz gigantizmine bağlı olarak Kuzey Doğu Atlantik'te daha büyük bireyler olsa da, söz konusu ölçüm, bu türün Ege Denizi için kanıtlanmış şu ana kadarki en büyük total boy değeridir.</p>

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Introduction

The Sparidae, commonly called sea breams and porgies, is a family of the order Perciformes and contains 164 species in 38 genera (Eschmeyer’s Catalog of Fishes, 2020; Fishbase, 2020a). Recently, the sister family Centracanthidae (picarels) has also been merged with the Sparidae (Santini et al., 2014; Fishbase, 2020b) while they previously were listed as distinct and separate (Nelson 2006; Golani et al., 2006; Mater et al., 2011). As far as it is known, 24 Sparidae species within 13 genera (*Boobs*, *Centracanthus*, *Dentex*, *Diplodus*, *Evynnis* *Lithognathus*, *Oblada*, *Pagellus*, *Pagrus*, *Sarpa*, *Sparus*, *Spicara* and *Spondylisoma*) from Turkish territorial waters were reported (Mater et al., 2011; Fishbase, 2020c) and there are two more species (*Crenidens crenidens* and *Rhabdosargus haffara*) in the Eastern Mediterranean (Golani et al., 2006) which are lessepsian. Members of the Sparidae family are mainly coastal marine fishes which have high economic value and are captured and cultured for human consumption, as well as for recreational intentions (Pavlidis and Mylonas, 2011). According to the FAO statistics, in terms of captured marine and brackish water fishes all over the world in 2018, the Sparidae production with 347,996 metric tonnes (mtn) represented %0.48 of the total amount. On the other hand, aquaculture production of the Sparidae in 2018 reached 388,534 mtn with a revenue of \$1,843,265,000 which represented 12.92% of the amount and 14.24% of the value of the production of cultured and farmed (tuna fish, etc.) marine fishes worldwide (FAO, 2020).

The Blackspot seabream (Red seabream - *Pagellus bogaraveo* Brünnich, 1768), belongs to the family Sparidae, is a demersal and omnivorous (predominantly carnivores) teleost fish feeding mainly on crustaceans, mollusks, worms, small fish, and sometimes on plants (Wheeler, 1997; Froese and Pauly, 2019). They live near the coast as juveniles and on the continental slope down to 400 meters in the Mediterranean but down to 700-800 meters in the Atlantic as adults, above different types of substrates, like mud, sand, and rocks (Fischer et al. 1987; Froese and Pauly, 2019). This species prevalently shows the protandrous hermaphroditic feature in culture conditions while a high incidence of gonochorism occurred in the wild (Micale et al., 2011). It is relatively widespread species from the south of Norway to the west of Saharan Africa, including the Azores and Canary Islands in the continental slope of Atlantic, and is more common in the western Mediterranean Sea than in the eastern basin, besides it is absent in the Black Sea (Spedicato et al., 2002; IUCN, 2014) (Figure 1). In addition, it has been recorded that the total length of individuals, especially in north-eastern of the Atlantic, is higher (Bauchot and Hureau, 1986; Froese and Pauly, 2019) compared to the Mediterranean basin records (İşmen et al., 2007; Karachle and Stergiou, 2008). This situation may be related to the abundance of nutrients and/or the polar gigantism biological incident.

Nowadays, the Blackspot seabream has high prices depending on market demands in domestic markets as a result of overfishing and is also cultured in northern Spain (IUCN, 2014; FAO, 2017). Nevertheless, probably due to problems such as high sensitivity to captivity conditions,

slow growth rate and late maturation age, only one commercial enterprise produces this fish (Pavlidis and Mylonas, 2011). Also, the annual aquaculture production amount of this species decreased from 245 mtn to 108 mtn from 2011 to 2018 (FAO, 2020) (Table 1). *Pagellus bogaraveo* has also been included in the list of the Near Threatened Species by the IUCN since 2014 due to its decreasing population trend (IUCN, 2014).

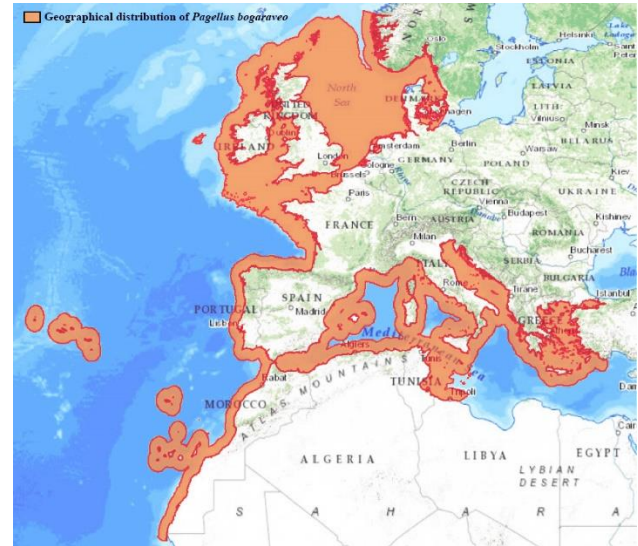


Figure 1. Geographic distribution of *Pagellus bogaraveo* (modified from IUCN, 2014)

Table 1. Worldwide production amount of *P. bogaraveo* depending on years (prepared using FAO statistics; FAO, 2020)

Year	Production amount	
	Production amount (mtn) of captured fish	Production amount (mtn) of cultured fish
2000	1876	0
2001	1313	0
2002	1693	2
2003	1603	22
2004	1601	100
2005	2261	118
2006	1517	134
2007	1697	194
2008	1606	225
2009	1479	183
2010	1252	214
2011	1070	245
2012	1082	186
2013	1390	228
2014	1620	172
2015	1634	171
2016	1339	178
2017	2601	142
2018	1385	108

Maximum length and weight are important parameters used in life history studies and fisheries science (Dulčić and Soldo, 2005). These measurements are applied directly or indirectly in most stock assessment models (Borges 2001; Cengiz 2014). Notably, the size-based analyses of

fishes are becoming increasingly popular methods for enhancing the understanding of community structure and function (Jennings and Dulvy, 2005) and could be used as a tool for rapid assessment of growth rates in the deficiency of primary data (Filiz and Sevingel, 2015). Therefore, it is important to regularly update the maximum size information of commercially or recreationally important species (Dulčić and Soldo, 2006; Navarro et al., 2012; Cengiz et al., 2019a). Depending on polar or deep-sea gigantism (Geldiay and Kocataş, 2012), there are massive individuals, especially in the seas with lower average temperatures; but the previous maximum total length record for the Aegean Sea was 25.1 cm (İşmen et al., 2007). This study presents the maximum length and weight values of the Blackspot seabream for the Aegean Sea up to the time.

Material and Methods

Saros Bay, situated in the Northeastern Aegean Sea, is connected to the North Aegean with a depth of approximately 600 m to the west. The shelf extends at a water depth of 90–120 m. The length of the bay is about 61 km and the width at the opening to the Aegean Sea is about 36 km (Eronat and Sayın, 2014; Cengiz et al., 2019b). Since Saros Bay had been closed to bottom trawl fishing since 2000 (Cengiz et al., 2011) and no industrial activity was prevalent in the area (Sarı and Çağatay, 2001), the bay can be considered as a pristine environment (Cengiz et al., 2013; 2019c).

A single specimen of *Pagellus bogaraveo* was caught in Saros Bay (Figure 2) by a fisherman on 08 February 2019, from a depth of 25 m, using live bait (mud-shrimp; *Upogebia pusilla* or *Gilvossius tyrrhenus*) with a 0.50 mm monofilament fishing line, consisting of 3 pieces of number 3 Mustad 505 hooks and lead weights. Subsequently, we obtained it from a fishmonger in Çanakkale.

Total length is defined as the measurement taken from the anterior-most part of the fish to the end of the caudal fin rays when compressed dorso-ventrally (Anderson and Gutreuter 1983). Accordingly, the total length and weight of the specimen was measured accurately. Besides, some morphometric characters (according to Figure 3) were measured, and some meristic characters were counted.

Results and Discussion

The blackspot seabream specimen (Figure. 4) subjected to the article was 30.7 cm in total length and 390.00 g in total weight. Some morphometric and meristic characters for *P. bogaraveo* is presented in Table 2. The comparison of the maximum lengths and weights recorded for *P. bogaraveo* in the Aegean Sea is given in Table 3.

As well known, the individuals in populations exposed to high levels of fishing pressure will respond by reproducing at smaller average sizes and ages, and so reached maximum lengths would gradually decrease. Nevertheless, despite overfishing, sometimes such large individuals which could not be caught because of non-coincidence, are also encountered (Filiz 2011; Cengiz et al., 2019d). On the other hand, some factors such as nutrient availability and abundance, feeding appetite,

water temperature, photoperiod, dissolved oxygen amount, salinity, turbidity, pollutants, the severity of water current, predator density, intra-specific social interactions, and genetics, might affect the growth (Helfman et al., 2009; Geldiay and Kocataş, 2012; Acarlı et al., 2009). Briefly, the maximum length and weight of organisms depend on the ecological conditions, regional differences, and overfishing pressure.

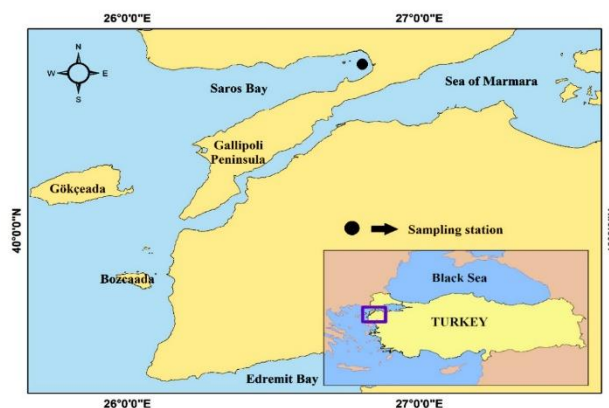


Figure 2. Saros Bay and sampling station

Table 2. Some morphometric and meristic characters of the *P. bogaraveo* specimen discussed in this study

Morphometric characters	Value
Weight (g)	390.0
TL (mm)	307.0
FL (mm)	274.1
SL (mm)	251.9
BDm (mm)	23.0
BDx (mm)	96.3
HL (mm)	75.9
PrOD (mm)	11.1
ED (mm)	28.2
POD (mm)	36.6
PrPD (mm)	82.7
DFBL (mm)	114.8
PFBL (mm)	77.8
AFBL (mm)	42.2
CPL (mm)	35.0
Meristic characters	
Dorsal fin rays	XII - 12
Anal fin rays	III - 11
Pectoral fin rays	14

There is a consensus among naturalists that data on maximum length, weight, age, growth, and weight-length relationship are required to estimate the population parameters as asymptotic length and growth coefficient of fish, which is essential for fisheries resource planning and management (Agüero et al. 2010; Cengiz et al., 2019e). Consequently, this paper provides new information on the maximum proved total length of *P. bogaraveo* for the entire Aegean Sea and Turkish territorial waters and the second-rank maximum total length for the Mediterranean Basin. The information presented here may be used to compare the similar parameters in ongoing fishery studies all over the world by providing scientific support to the fisheries scientists.

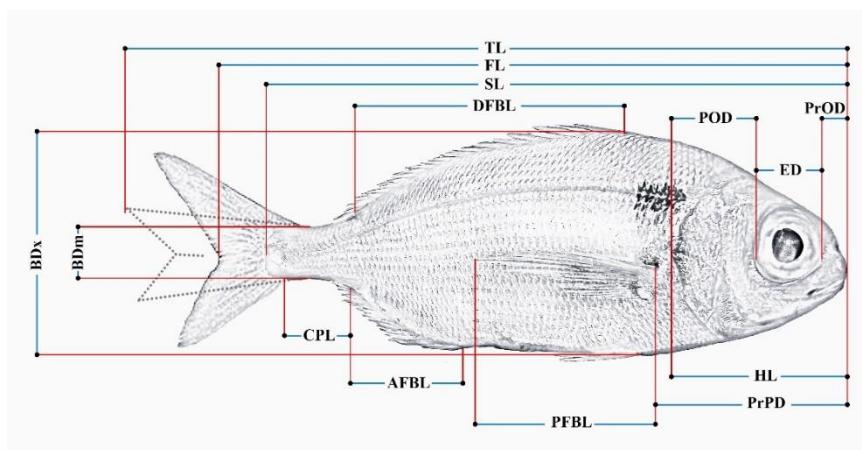


Figure 3. Morphometric measurements of the Blackspot seabream

Abbreviations: TL – total length, FL – fork length, SL – standard length, HL – head length, PrOD – preorbital distance, ED – eye diameter, POD – postorbital distance, PrPD – prepectoral distance, DFBL – dorsal fin base length, PFBL – pectoral fin base length, AFBL – anal fin base length, CPL – caudal peduncle length, BDm – minimum body depth, BDX – maximum body depth.



Figure 4. The Blackspot seabream with 30.7 cm TL and 390.00 g TW

Table 3. The comparison of the maximum length and weight records of *P. bogaraveo* caught in the Aegean Sea

Authors	Location	N	L _{max} (cm)	W _{max} (g)
Papaconstantinou et al. (1994)	Northern Aegean Sea, Greece	694	17.5	-
Karakulak et al. (2006)	Gökçeada Island, Turkey	1	18.6	66.80
İşmen et al. (2007)	Saros Bay, Turkey	2355	25.1	255.00
Özaydın et al. (2007)	İzmir Bay, Turkey	51	17.9	-
İlkyaz et al. (2008)	İzmir Bay, Turkey	77	15.1	-
Karachle and Stergiou (2008)	Northern Aegean Sea, Greece	72	23.1	-
Cengiz (2013)	Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey	92	20.9	105.62
Bilge et al. (2014)	Southern Aegean Sea, Turkey	113	15.9	-
Altın et al. (2015)	Gökçeada Island, Turkey	471	5.7	1.68
This study	Saros Bay, Turkey	1	30.7	390.00

Ethical Approval

The confirmation document, numbered 16498365-050-E.6917, and indicates the Ethics Committee's permission is not required for this study (scientific studies with dead fish provided from commercial fishers) was obtained from the Local Ethics Committee of Kastamonu University.

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