



## Short Communication

# OCCURRENCE OF THE ATLANTIC POMFRET, *Brama brama* (BONNATERRE 1788) (PERCIFORMES: BRAMIDAE) IN THE AEGEAN SEA (SIĞACIK BAY, TURKEY)

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### ABSTRACT

Two specimens of the Atlantic pomfret, *Brama brama* was caught by a driftnet off southern coast of İzmir, Sığacık Bay at a depth of 147 m on 20 June 2018. Moreover, one of the individuals had the maximum size with 710 mm TL and 5696 g throughout the Mediterranean. This short note presents a new official record of *B. brama* on the ichthyofaunal richness of the Turkish Aegean Sea.

**Keywords:** Rare species, Measurement, Maximal size, Sığacık Bay, Aegean Sea

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## Introduction

The Bramidae family known as ‘breams’ consists of 18 species in all oceans, only one in the Mediterranean (Golani *et al.* 2006). *Brama brama* (Bonnaterre, 1788) is offshore epipelagic fish descends down to 400 m, seasonal migrant occurring in small schools. It is opportunistic feeders on small fishes, cephalopods, amphipods and euphausiids. Spawning occurs between August and September in Mediterranean, later in eastern Atlantic. It is cosmopolitan in all major oceans; from central Norway southwards including the western Mediterranean, however, it is rare in the eastern basin (Haedrich, 1986; Golani *et al.*, 2006). In this paper, we report on the occurrence of the Atlantic pomfret, *Brama brama* as an incidental catch from swordfish fishery in the deep-waters of Sığacık Bay (İzmir, Aegean Sea).

## Material and Methods

On 20 June 2018, two specimens of *Brama brama* (Figure 1), was caught by a driftnet targeting swordfish off southern coast of İzmir, Sığacık Bay (lat 38°014334 N, long 26°378288 E) at a depth of 147 m in dawn time (Figure 2). The species was identified according to Haedrich (1986), Golani *et al.* (2006) and Froese & Pauly (2018). The samples, fixed in 6% formaldehyde solution, have been preserved in the fish collection of the Fisheries Faculty, Ege University (ESFM-PIS/2018-06).

## Results and Discussion

Morphometric measurements, ratios and meristic counts of *Brama brama* were indicated in Table 1. In the Aegean Sea, Geldiay (1969) mentioned the *B. brama* (as *B. raji*) in İzmir Bay, NE Aegean Sea only by name, but no solid details. *B. brama* has been recorded in the Greek waters of southern Aegean Sea (Corsini-Foka, 2009), and the four specimens, caught by longline off Rhodes, Nisyros and Kalymnos Islands were ranged from 465 to 700 mm TL (1000 - 4500 g). In the eastern Ionian Sea, Mytilineou *et al.* (2013) reported just 12 specimens of *B. brama* (range: 315 – 643 mm TL; 348 – 3638 g in weight). According to Froese & Pauly (2018), although, maximum length of *B. brama* was reported as 1000 mm TL in waters of Cuba and maximum published weight was 6000 g. Thus, the specimen with 710 mm and 5696 g in this paper has the maximum size in the Mediterranean.

## Conclusion

The occurrence of *B. brama* in İzmir coasts is not unexpected due to the recent records of the species from the Rhodes, Nisyros and Kalymnos Islands in Greek southern Aegean Sea. However, this record reveals that the rare *B. brama* goes towards to upper latitudes of the Turkish Aegean Sea.

**Table 1.** Morphometric measurements, ratios and meristic counts of *Brama brama*, captured from Sığacık Bay, İzmir, Aegean Sea

Specimens	1		2	
	Size (mm)	Proportion %TL	Size (mm)	Proportion %TL
Total length (TL)	660		710	
Standard length (SL)	528	80.0	575	81.0
Fork length (FL)	569	86.2	620	87.3
Pre-dorsal fin length	140	21.2	178	25.1
Pre-pectoral fin length	144	21.8	155	21.8
Pre-anal fin length	245	37.1	278	39.2
Pectoral length	190	28.8	198	27.9
Head length (HL)	140	21.2	147	20.7
Eye diameter	34	5.2	34	4.8
Preorbital length	36	5.5	41	5.8
Meristic counts				
Dorsal fin rays	III+32		III+32	
Anal fin rays	II+23		II+23	
Pectoral fin rays	20		20	
Ventral fin rays	I+5		I+5	
Weight (g)	3960		5696	



Figure 1. *Brama brama* with 710 mm TL, caught from Sığacık Bay, Aegean Sea (Photo: O. Akyol)

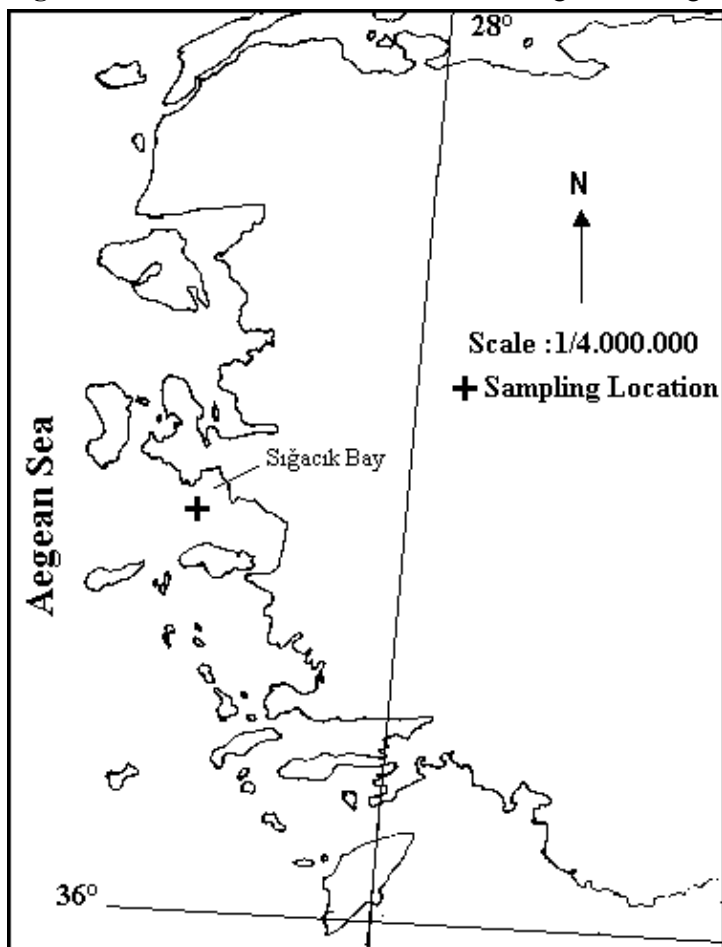


Figure 2. Sampling location of *Brama brama* in the Aegean Sea

### Compliance with Ethical Standard

**Conflict of interests:** The authors declare that for this article they have no actual, potential or perceived conflict of interests.

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