

Records of live sharksucker *Echeneis naucrates* Linnaeus, 1758 in Tyrrhenian and Ionian Seas (Osteichthyes, Echeneidae)

GIANNI INSACCO^{1,*}, ANIELLO AMATO² & BRUNO ZAVA^{3,*}

¹ Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, via degli Studi 9, 97013 Comiso (RG), Italy.

² A.S.L. Salerno, U.O. Veterinaria, Distr. 66, via Sichelmanno 79, 84100 Salerno, Italy.

³ Wilderness studi ambientali, via Cruillas 27, 90146 Palermo, Italy.

*Corresponding author: wildernessbz@hotmail.com

Abstract. Two new captures of livesucker *Echeneis naucrates*, Linnaeus, 1758 in Tyrrhenian Sea and Ionian Sea were reported. Description of the specimens and measurements are given.

Keywords: Echeneidae, *Echeneis naucrates*, Mediterranean Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea, Ionian Sea.

INTRODUCTION

Live sharksucker *Echeneis naucrates* Linnaeus, 1758 occurs worldwide in tropical and temperate seas except for the eastern Pacific. It appears to occur as a Lessepsian migrant in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. The species is rather rare in the northern Mediterranean but common in southern and eastern areas (Lachner, 1986; Golani, 2005). In Italy the species was reported from few localities (Tortonese, 1973). In the south central Mediterranean Sea *E. naucrates* is reported for Tunisia (Bradai et al., 2004), and for the Libyan coast (Al-Hassan and El-Silini, 1999).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

On 13th September 2015 a specimen of *Echeneis naucrates* was caught by a local professional fisherman using a trammel net in the waters off the harbour of Salerno, Campania, Italy, approximative coordinates 40.554756°N - 14.891812°E; the fish was collected by the fish monger Vittorio Civale and brought to the veterinary of Salerno fish market Dr. Aniello Amato. Few month later, on 28th January 2016 another specimen of *E. naucrates* was caught, by Mr. Salvatore Avarino, fishing boat number 3SR996, using a trammel net, at a depth of 10 meters, 200 meters east the Cavettone beach, Marzamemi, Sicily, Italy, approximative coordinates 36.727237°N - 15.122319°E. Both fresh specimens were measured as total length (TL in mm), weighted as total weight (TW in g), photographed (Fig. 1) and identified according to Collette in Carpenter, 2003. Successively other morphometric data were collected in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale of Comiso laboratory.

RESULTS

The meristic data are: dorsal fin rays XIII, 10; pectoral 15; pelvic I, 3, I; anal VII, 9. Morphometric characteristics are listed in Table 1.

Tab. 1 – Morphometric characteristics of the two specimens of *Echeneis naucrates* Linnaeus, 1758, caught off Salerno, Campania and Marzamemi, Sicily, Italy.

	Marzamemi	Salerno
Total length	524	518
Standard length	442	436
Predorsal length	249	236
Prefrontal length	90	83
Dorsal fin length	194	188
Anal fin length	188	192
Preanal fin length	248	233
Pectoral fin length	65	61
Pelvic fin length	54	52
Caudal fin length	81	79
Eye diameter	11	10
Pre orbital length maxilla	37	34
Pre orbital length mandibula	49	45
Head length maxilla	88	78
Inter orbital length	8	7
Disc length	116	113
Disc width	49	43
Number of disc laminae	23	23
Weight (in grams)	565	570

The fresh specimens had the following colours: dark brown with a horizontal stripe on the mid-side of the body, and all fins almost completely dark. The specimen from Marzamemi is now in the fish collection of the Museo di Storia Naturale di Comiso (Ragusa); the individual from Salerno was donated to the Wilderness fish collection where it is now preserved.



Fig. 1 – Specimens of *Echeneis naucrates* caught off Salerno, Campania (A) and Marzamemi, Sicily (B), Italy.



Fig. 2 – Disc of *Echeneis naucrates* specimen caught off Salerno, Campania, Italy.

CONCLUSIONS

Description and measurements recorded on these new Italian specimens are in agreement with Tortonese (1973) and Lachner (1986). In conclusion the finding at Salerno confirms the presence of the species in the Tyrrhenian waters; the Marzamemi capture confirms the nineteenth record for the Ionian waters (Tortonese, 1973).

Acknowledgements. We are grateful to Mr Vittorio Civale (Salerno) and Mr Salvatore Avarino (Marzamemi) for providing us with the specimens.

REFERENCES

- Al-Hassan L.A.J., El-Silini O.A., 1999 Check-list of bony fishes collected from Mediterranean coast of Bengazi, Lybia. *Rev. Biol. Mar. Oceanogr.* 34: 291-301.
- Bradai, M.N., Quignard, J.P., Bouain, A., Jarbouli, O., Ouannes-Ghorbel, A., Ben Abdallah, L., Zaouali, J., Ben Salem, S., 2004. Ichtyofaune autochtone et exotique des cotes tunisiennes: Recensements et biogéographie. *Cybiurn* 28: 315-328.
- Collette, B. B. 2003. Echeneidae. Remoras (sharksuckers, discfishes). p. 1414-1419. In K.E. Carpenter (ed.) *FAO species identification guide for fishery purposes. The living marine resources of the Western Central Atlantic. Vol. 3: Bony fishes part 2 (Opisthognathidae to Molidae), sea turtles and marine mammals.*
- Collette, B., Curtis, M., Williams, J.T., Smith-Vaniz, W.F. & Pina Amargos, F. 2015. *Echeneis naucrates*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015: e.T190393A15603110. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-4.RLTS.T190393A15603110.en>. Downloaded on 12 April 2016.
- Golani, D., Ozturk, B., Basusta, N., 2006. The fishes of the eastern Mediterranean. Turkish Marine Research Foundation (Publication No. 24), Istanbul.
- Lachner, E. A., 1986. Echeneididae. In: *Fishes of the north-eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, Vol. III.* P. J. P. Whitehead, M. L. Bauchot, J. C. Hureau, J. Nielsen and E. Tortonese (Eds.) UNESCO, Paris, pp. 1329-1334.
- Tortonese E., 1973 Les poissons de la famille Echeneididae (Remoras) de la Mer Ligure et de la Mer Tyrrhénienne. *Rev. Trav. Inst. Pêches marit*, 37 (2): 197-202.