

A NEW LESSEPSIAN DECAPOD IN NORTHERN AEGEAN SEA *IXA MONODI* (HOLTHUIS AND GOTTLIEB, 1956)

BY

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ABSTRACT

A new decapod species, *Ixa monodi* (Holthuis and Gottlieb, 1956) is described from the Saros Bay in north of Aegeis. This species is found on soft substrates (mud) and among pebbles and small stones at a depth of 45-55m. The diagnostic features, a detailed description and a figure of the species are given of its taxonomy.

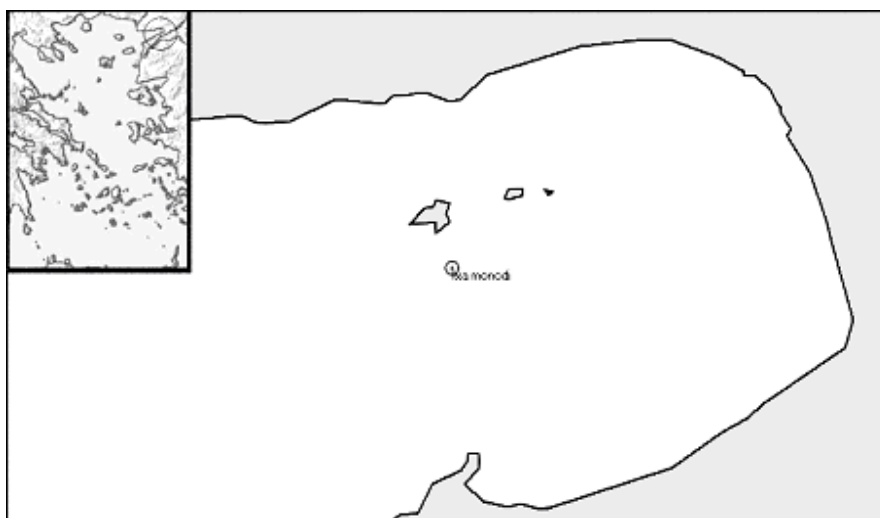
RÉSUMÉ

A la mer du Nord Egée, dans le golf de Saros on a révélé une nouvelle sorte de décapode. Ce spécimen a été retrouvé a une profondeur de 45-55m, sur une surface boueuse, terreuse entre des galets et de petits cailloux. Dans cet article on a déterminé toutes les caractères particulières et morphologiques avec une représentation détaillée, leurs formes et leurs situations taxonomiques.

RESULTS AND REMARKS

On 27th of July 2005, in northern section of Golf of Saros (40°36'14"N-26°44'32"E) between 45-50 m of depth, during the lifting operation of lost nets -ghost nets- (*project; monitoring of benthos*), it has been encountered in the fishnets, a living *Ixa monodi* crab. It has been suggested that this crab for more than a year was sheltered in this area amongst fishnets on deep sea base. I suppose that I am right to think that these surrounding nets having lost their properties in time and then got covered by fouling organisms and as a result having turned into a shelter like place with more than one entry supports my related thesis on this issue.

Meanwhile, not only the forms fled because of machine noises during the operation and the forms sheltered inside, but also various decapods and echinoderms are strengthening my theory.



The placing map o the catch area of *Ixa monodi*

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A new decapod in Northern Aegean Sea

The taxonomic situation. – Classis: CRUSTACEA

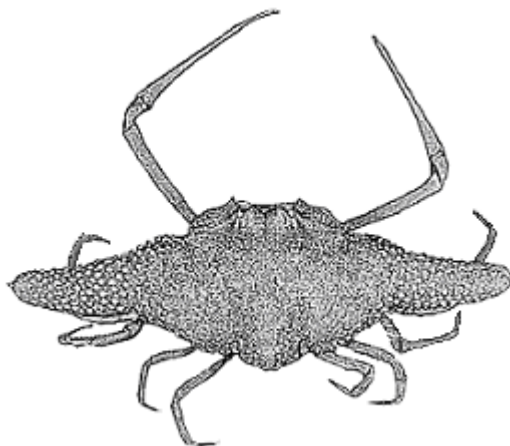
Ordo: DECAPODA

Familla: LEUCOSIIDAE

Genus: IXA

Ixa monodi (Holthuis and Gottlieb, 1956)

Remarks. – Carapace is in shape of a transversal and ovoid thorn, and thereby shows a sort of form which is laterally cylindrically ovoid. The Carapace surface is covered by tubercles which their number increases towards the two extremities. (Drawing 1)



Drawing 1. – *Ixa monodi*

The fore part of Carapace is constituted by two lobes; the orbits are deep and cover the eyes which do not stretchy to outside. The anterior corner is formed by 3 pieces, while the posterior part has only 2 submedian granular tubercules. On posterior part of Carapace, there are some sorts of two shallow channels which stretch towards the anterior part. The mobile parts of pincers are way longer than other parts. The legs are long and thin. (Photo1)

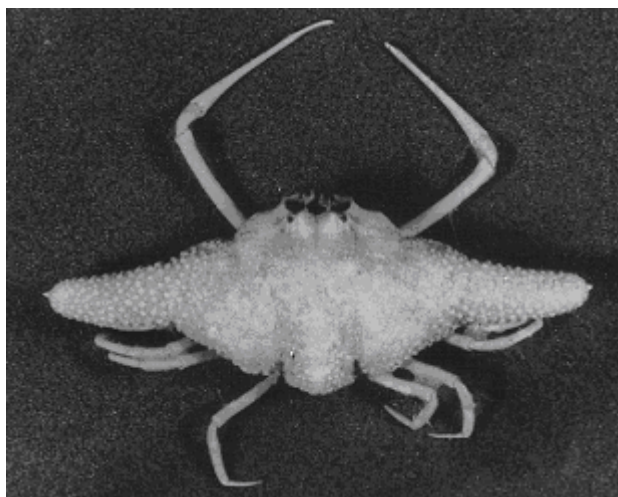


Photo 1. – Dorsal view of *Ixa monodi*

Carapace is light orange-red like colored whilst its tubercles are dark colored. The extreme parts of both of its edges are much lighter colored. The pincers- chelipeds are orange and pincers are of a lighter color. The walking legs are light orange colored. The approximate height is around 3.5 cm. CL It has been named the species coming from Red Sea via Suez Channel as Lessepsian species. This term stems from the architect named Ferdinand de Lesseps. With the opening of Suez Channel these some hundred species passed into the Mediterranean Sea and rapidly populated. Today we think that this number constitutes %4-5 of the total number of Fauna and Flora (Golani, 1996).

A new decapod in Northern Aegean Sea

Despite this the inverse immigration which is from Mediterranean to Red Sea is way too limited with a few species (*Steinitz, 1947*). The species which pass to Mediterranean via Suez Channel exhibit a scattered appearance amongst Anatolian, Israel, Syrian coasts. But these species because of high erosion and nutritional challenge have gone to western Anatolian Coasts and northern Aegea waters.

Ixa monody came also to Mediterranean with the opening of Suez Channel and here showed a scattered distribution. According to the discoveries of this specimen in different areas like Golf of Iskenderun, in Rhodes Isle in the year 2002 and lastly in Golf of Saros in the Sea of Aegea support my theory about the direction of its distribution.

In golf of Saros even tough it's strictly forbidden the Trawl Hunting may be seen from times to times. Hence the existence of this specimen in this muddy and muddy&sandy ground will be difficult due to the Trawl landing. But the surrounding rocky, pebble formational environment is kind of shelter for the distribution of *Ixa Monodi*.

For the very first time it has been proved in the year 1956 by the Institute of Hydrobiology (*Artüz.İ at al. 1955*), right after from Israel (*Golani at al. 1983*), Greece and Rhodes Isle (*Galil and Kevrekidis, 2002*);and lastly by Syria (*H. Hasan 2003*). There are also some information's about its dense existence in Israel and Iskenderun golf.

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