

Armina maculata Rafinesque, 1814 (Nudibranchia: Arminidae): a new record for the Turkish mollusc fauna

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Abstract: A specimen of *Armina maculata* was collected on 10 July 2013 from İzmir Bay, north-eastern Aegean coast of Turkey. This short note represents a clear indication of the unique occurrence of an *A. maculata* in Turkish seas.

Key words: *Armina maculata*, new record, İzmir Bay, Aegean Sea, Turkey

The genus *Armina*, with more than 50 nominal species, has a worldwide distribution; they are poorly known nudibranchs (Kolb, 1998). Arminids are characterised by having an elongated, flattened body and a narrow posterior end with longitudinal ridges or pustules on the notum (Baez et al., 2011).

Armina maculata Rafinesque, 1814 is 1 of the 3 Mediterranean arminids, along with *A. neapolitana* (delle Chiaje, 1824) and *A. tigrina* Rafinesque, 1814 (<http://www.medslugs.de/E/mssmain.htm>).

Kolb (1998) described the external morphology of *A. maculata* as not having notal ridges, although irregularly arranged pustules occur on the notum; the living animals have white pustules; the ground colour of the mantle is orange. Size and shape of the pustules vary on the notum; spherical to conical pustules of different sizes are found on the frontal part; the number of these pustules decreases towards the medial part of the body and increases again on the posterior part (Kolb, 1998).

For its feeding behaviour, Rudman (2001) stated that the *A. maculata* burrows in the sand during the day, and then emerges at night for feeding on the pennatulacean "Sea Pen" (*Veretillum cynomorium*).

The distribution of *A. maculata* has been reported from the Mediterranean and nearby Atlantic coasts, i.e. Spain, Portugal, Morocco, and Angola (Rudman, 2001). Although *A. maculata* is known from the Mediterranean, this species has not been observed in Turkish seas previously.

On 10 July 2013, an accidental catch of an *Armina maculata* specimen (Figure) was provided by a prawn

fisherman using a trammel net (mesh size: 40 mm). The capture location was on the Urla coast (38°22'N, 26°46'E), İzmir Bay, at a depth of 25 m on a sandy-muddy bottom. The specimen was fixed in 4% formaldehyde solution

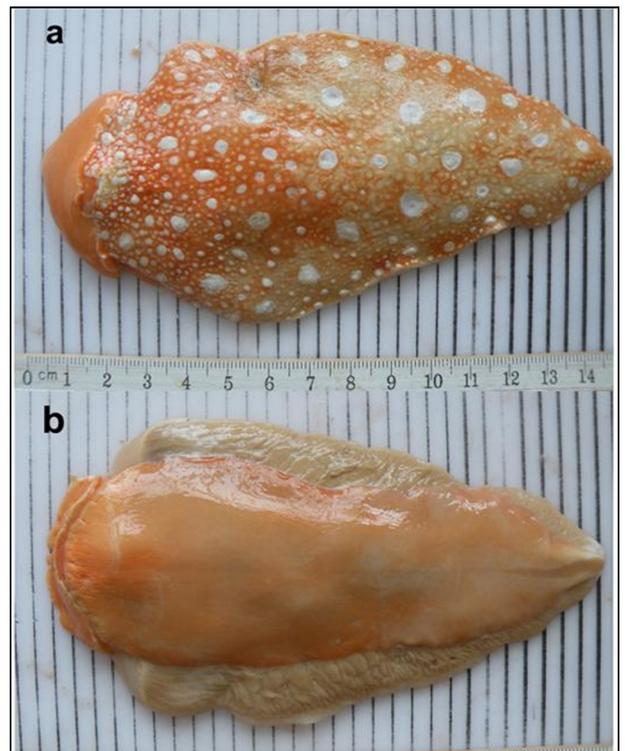


Figure. *Armina maculata*: dorsal and ventral views of the specimen.

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and deposited in the museum of Ege University, Fisheries Faculty (ESFM-GAS/2013-4).

The specimen has an orange colour with white pustules and has a total length of 145 mm. Shape and colour patterns with white pustules of the species were in accordance with those of Riedl (1983) and Kolb (1998). However, our specimen seems to be larger than those reported by Kolb (1998) and by Rudman (2001), which were 63 mm and 130 mm, respectively.

References

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Although *A. maculata* is previously unknown in both İzmir Bay (north-eastern Aegean Sea) and Turkish seas, the occurrence of *A. maculata* in İzmir Bay was not unexpected, but it did not clearly indicate an established population. In conclusion, this short report contributes a new mollusc species to the Turkish marine fauna.

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