

***Syllis ergeni*: a new species of Syllidae (Annelida: Polychaeta) from Izmir Bay (Aegean Sea, eastern Mediterranean Sea)**

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ABSTRACT

The faunal analysis of hard bottom materials collected from Alsancak Harbour and its vicinity (Izmir Bay, Aegean Sea) revealed a new syllid species, *Syllis ergeni*. The species is mainly characterized by having a dark-brown colour pattern on the dorsum of anterior and middle segments, short blade falcigers, the number and morphology of aciculae, and a pigmented proventriculus and pharynx. The morphology, ecology, distribution and reproductive features of the species are explained and discussed.

Key words: Polychaeta, *Syllis ergeni*, new species, reproduction, ecology, Aegean Sea, eastern Mediterranean Sea

INTRODUCTION

A project (Project No: 03 SÜF 005) was undertaken in 2003 in Alsancak Harbour and its vicinity (Izmir Bay, Aegean Sea) to investigate seasonal dynamics of soft and hard bottom zoobenthic organisms, and effects of potential exotic species introduced by ballast water and ships hulls on the prevailing ecosystem. During the sampling process, some *Syllis* specimens (Syllidae) were collected in association with the mussel *Mytilus galloprovincialis* Lamarck, 1819, which formed a dense cover of the hard bottom substrate of the polluted inner part of Izmir Bay. This species has not been noticed in the area before and showed a big discrepancy when compared to all reported *Syllis* species.

This paper intends to describe this new species and outline its ecological and reproductive features.