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## ABUNDANCE AND DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS OF LARVAL MYCTOPHID FISHES IN NORTH-EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

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### ABSTRACT

In this investigation the distribution of larval Myctophid fishes collected from Turkish coasts of North-Eastern Mediterranean was studied. The weekly sampling was done vertically using Nansen type plankton net with 112 µm mesh size during January 1998-March 2001 from 3 stations. In this study, 14 species which 3 were at the level of genus and 2 were at the level of family were detected belonging to Myctophid larvae. These species were *Benthosema glaciale* (Reinhardt, 1837), *Ceratoscopelus maderensis* (Lowe, 1839), *Diaphus* spp., *Electrona risso* (Cocco, 1829), *Hygophum benoiti* (Cocco, 1838), *Hygophum hygomii* (Lütken, 1892), *Hygophum reinhardtii* (Lütken, 1892), *Hygophum* sp., *Lampanyctus crocodilus* (Risso, 1810), *Lampanyctus* sp., *Lobiancia dofleini* (Zugmayer, 1911), *Myctophum punctatum* Rafinesque 1810, Myctophidae sp1 and Myctophidae sp2. The dominant species was *H. hygomii*. Furthermore, the species *H. reinhardtii* was first reported from Mediterranean Sea in this study. Overall, the larvae were detected at the station of which depth was 100 meters.