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THE FIRST RECORD OF *TRACHINOTUS OVATUS* (LINNAEUS, 1758) IN THE COASTAL WATERS OF THE NETHERLANDS (PISCES, PERCIFORMES, CARANGIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

A live specimen of *Trachinotus ovatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) is reported for the first time from the coastal waters of the Netherlands.

On the 21st of October 1976, while fishing during ebb tide with a set-net from the surface to a depth of eight metres, a Dutch fishing cutter from the port of Vlissingen, the VLI 6 (skipper Mr. P.J. Kleppe) caught a live specimen of a Derbio, *Trachinotus ovatus* (fig. 1), in a sea-arm called the Oosterschelde. The exact locality is 6.5 km WNW of the fishing port Colijnsplaat, near buoy SvK 4 at the "Schaar van Colijnsplaat", 51°37'00" N 03°48'30" E, maximum depth about 25 metres, sand bottom. The specimen was found in a mixed catch of Sprat, *Sprattus sprattus* (Linnaeus) and juvenile Herring, *Clupea harengus* Linnaeus.

The specimen has a total length of 33.8 cm and

is deposited in the fish collection of the Institute of Taxonomic Zoology (Zoölogisch Museum), Amsterdam (ZMA 114.308) by courtesy of Mr. F.J. Minneboo, officer in charge of the fish market of Colijnsplaat, and of the Delta Institute for Hydrobiological Research at Yerseke.

Although this specimen is the first record of *Trachinotus ovatus* in the North Sea, the species has previously been recorded as "*Lichia glaucus*" [sic!] (Linnaeus, 1758) from the western entrance of Mount's Bay, Cornwall, caught in a drift-net in deep water off the Runnel Stone in October 1857 (Couch, R.Q., 1859; Couch, J., 1863: 139-141, pl. 95). This specimen had a total length of 34 cm. Day (1880: 132-133, pl. 47, fig. 1) repeats this record as *Lichia glauca* and lists a second specimen from Penzance, Cornwall, caught on 28-VIII-1878.

A third record from British waters has been

given by Wheeler (1969: 334). This specimen with a total length of 33.2 cm was caught in the Irish Sea in a salmon stake at Innerwel, Wigtown Bay, on 26-VIII-1961 (Wheeler in lit., 23-XI-1976).

The only other records of *Trachinotus ovatus* in the northern Atlantic are from Danish waters, where eight specimens were recorded (Jensen, 1940: 194; Nielsen, in lit. 11-XI-1976), all about 25-35 cm long (see table I and fig. 2).

Trachinotus ovatus (English: Derby; Danish: Gaffelmakrel; Dutch: Gaffelmakreel) occurs in the Mediterranean and in the eastern Atlantic Ocean from the Bay of Biscay to the Gulf of Guinea. It rarely migrates to northern waters.

Characteristic for the family Carangidae are the first two short, isolated spines of the anal fin, and a series of short, isolated spines (six in *Trachinotus ovatus*) representing the first dorsal fin.

The Derby is characterized by its small mouth

with small teeth, its short pectoral fin, and its deeply forked, dark, caudal fin. About six oval blotches are present in a row on the sides of the body. The back is dark, the sides and belly silvery. The tips of the dorsal and anal fins are black.

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TABLE I

RECORDS OF THE DERBIO, *TRACHINOTUS OVATUS*, IN NORTHERN ATLANTIC WATERS

1.	X-1857	off Runnel Stone, Mount's Bay, Cornwall	(BMNH)
2.	28-VIII-1878	off Penzance, Cornwall	(BMNH)
3.	9- IX-1918	off Korsør, Store Belt, Sjaelland	(ZMUC)
4.	19-VIII-1920	Hals, eastern entrance to Limfjorden, Jylland	(ZMUC)
5.	1932	Ålbaek Bugt, Jylland	
6.	22- IX-1945	Hundested, entrance Isefjord, Sjaelland	(ZMUC)
7.	5- IX-1950	Thyborøn, western entrance to Limfjorden, Jylland	
8.	XII-1960	South of Fyn	(ZMUC)
9.	23-VIII-1961	Aebeltoft Bay, Jylland	(ZMUC)
10.	26-VIII-1961	Innerwel, Wigtown Bay, Irish Sea	(BMNH)
11.	X-1965	Isefjord, Sjaelland	(ZMUC)
12.	21- X-1976	Oosterschelde, Zeeland	(ZMA)

BMNH = British Museum (Natural History)

ZMA = Zoölogisch Museum, Amsterdam

ZMUC = Universitets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen

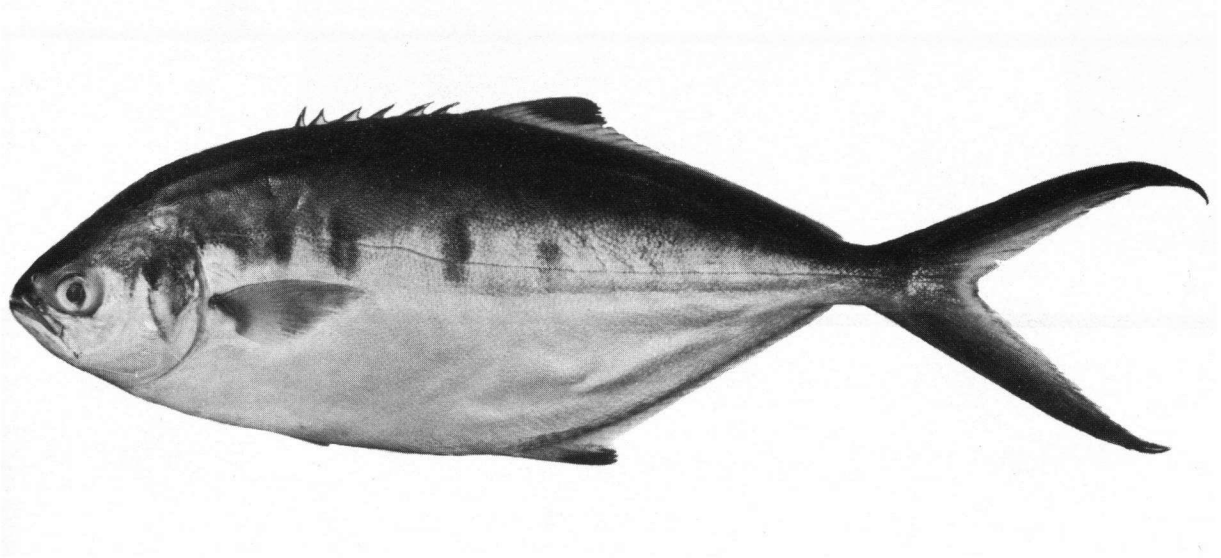


Fig. 1. *Trachinotus ovatus*, a specimen of 33.8 cm total length, caught alive in the coastal waters of the Netherlands (ZMA 11.308) on 21-X-1976 (Photo L.A. van der Laan, ZMA).

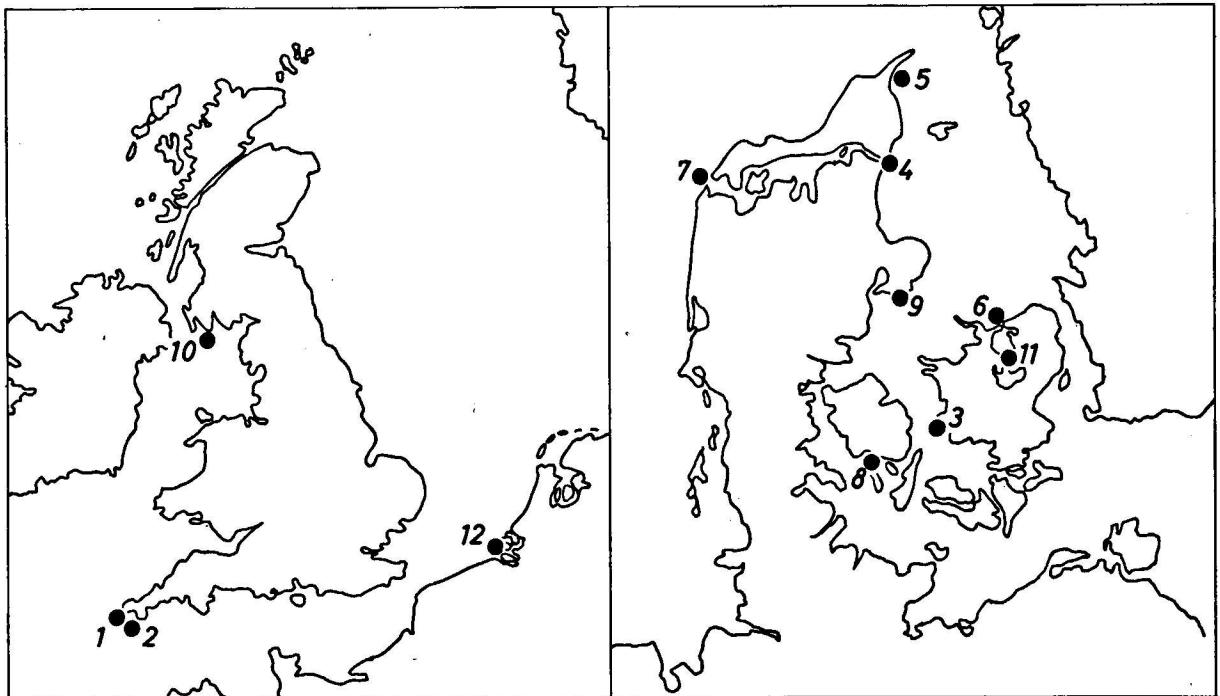


Fig. 2. Records of *Trachinotus ovatus* in northern Atlantic waters (see table I for locality data).