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Age, Growth and Reproduction of the Goldband Goatfish, *Upeneus moluccensis* (Bleeker, 1855),
in İskenderun Bay, the Eastern Mediterranean

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Abstract: The age composition, growth parameters, spawning season, sex ratio, length at first sexual maturity and fecundity of the goldband goatfish (*Upeneus moluccensis*) caught in İskenderun Bay in the eastern Mediterranean Sea were investigated. Females and males made up 51.6% and 48.4%, respectively, of the particular population of the species. The total length of females ranged from 7.0 cm to 20.5 cm, and of males from 7.0 cm to 17.8 cm. The length (L) - weight (W) relationships for males and females were estimated as $W = 0.0118 * L^{2.99}$ and $W = 0.0097 * L^{3.00}$, respectively. The age data derived from otolith readings were used to estimate the growth parameters of the von Bertalanffy equation. The estimated parameters were $L_{\infty} = 25.19$ cm, $K = 0.197$ and $t_0 = -1.002$. The maximum age was 7 for females and 6 for males. The 2-year age group was dominant in the pooled data. Males and females matured at a total length of 11 cm. The monthly values of the gonadosomatic index indicated that spawning occurred mainly between June and September. The fecundity (F) - length relationship was $\log F = -1.732 + 5.39 \log L$ ($r = 0.82$).

Key Words: İskenderun Bay, eastern Mediterranean, goldband goatfish, growth, reproduction

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