

## Accepted Manuscript

Title: Micro-anatomical structure of the first spine of the dorsal fin of Atlantic bluefin tuna, *Thunnus thynnus* (Osteichthyes: Scombridae)

Authors: Nicoletta Santamaria, Giambattista Bello, Letizia Passantino, Mariasevera Di Comite, Rosa Zupa, Chrysovalentinos Pousis, Robert Vassallo-Agius, Vincenzo Cicirelli, Gualtiero Basilone, Salvatore Mangano, Aldo Corriero

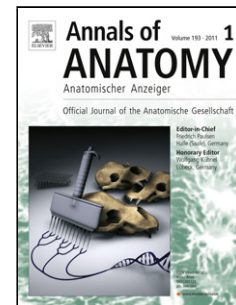
PII: S0940-9602(18)30064-5  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aanat.2018.03.009>  
Reference: AANAT 51267

To appear in:

Received date: 19-7-2017  
Revised date: 23-3-2018  
Accepted date: 29-3-2018

Please cite this article as: Santamaria, Nicoletta, Bello, Giambattista, Passantino, Letizia, Di Comite, Mariasevera, Zupa, Rosa, Pousis, Chrysovalentinos, Vassallo-Agius, Robert, Cicirelli, Vincenzo, Basilone, Gualtiero, Mangano, Salvatore, Corriero, Aldo, Micro-anatomical structure of the first spine of the dorsal fin of Atlantic bluefin tuna, *Thunnus thynnus* (Osteichthyes: Scombridae). *Annals of Anatomy* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aanat.2018.03.009>

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**Micro-anatomical structure of the first spine of the dorsal fin of Atlantic bluefin tuna, *Thunnus thynnus* (Osteichthyes: Scombridae)**

**Nicoletta Santamaria<sup>a</sup>, Giambattista Bello<sup>a</sup>, Letizia Passantino<sup>a</sup>, Mariasevera Di Comite<sup>b</sup>, Rosa Zupa<sup>a</sup>, Chrysovalentinos Pousis<sup>a</sup>, Robert Vassallo-Agius<sup>c</sup>, Vincenzo Cicirelli<sup>a</sup>, Gualtiero Basilone<sup>d</sup>, Salvatore Mangano<sup>d</sup>, Aldo Corriero<sup>a\*</sup>**

<sup>a</sup>Department of Emergency and Organ Transplantation, Section of Veterinary Clinics and Animal Production, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Valenzano (BA), Italy

<sup>b</sup>Department of Basic Medical Sciences, Neurosciences and Sensory Organs, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Bari, Italy

<sup>c</sup>Malta Aquaculture Research Centre, Marsaxlokk, Malta

<sup>d</sup>Institute for Marine Coastal Environment, National Research Council, Capo Granitola (TP), Italy

\* Corresponding author at: Department of Emergency and Organ Transplantation, Section of Veterinary Clinics and Animal Production, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Valenzano (BA), Italy.

*Email address:* aldo.corriero@uniba.it (A. Corriero)

**Abstract**

The first spine of the first dorsal fin (FS) of the Atlantic bluefin tuna (ABFT), *Thunnus thynnus*, is customarily used in age determination research because its transverse sections display well-defined growth marks. In this paper the FS structure was studied to explain its known dramatic age- and season-related morphological modifications, which are evidently caused by bone remodeling. Cross sections of samples from six adult ABFT were in part decalcified to be stained with histological, histochemical and immunohistochemical methods, and in part embedded in methyl-methacrylate to be either observed under a linear polarized light or microradiographed. FS showed an external

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