

New Species of Snails from Splendid Skadar Lake

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The Gastropoda, more generally known as snails and slugs, are a huge number of creatures within the phylum Mollusca. Gastropods varieties are incredibly different in types and dimensions, which range from minute to huge. About 50 varieties of snails are currently regarded to occupy Skadar Pond, the biggest on the Balkan Peninsula. The Bojana Stream joins the stream with the Adriatic Sea, and the Drin Stream provides a weblink with the Ohrid Pond.

Researchers Vladimir Pešić from the School of Montenegro and Peter Glöer from the Biodiversity Analysis Lab have lately found the new snail varieties *Karucia sublacustrina*. The new varieties lives in the historical pond of Skadar that is located at the boundary between Montenegro and Albania.

"Ancient ponds are among the most insecure and confronted environments, and their faunas are regularly under excessive anthropogenic stress. The small range of many native to the island varieties living in the Skadar Pond system -- together with ever improving individual stress -- make its wildlife extremely insecure. This becomes even more important in light of continuous eutrophication, contamination and sand and pebbles discovery actions in the river and its sink. Therefore, information on their population is of main significance for appropriate and effective efficiency and maintenance," says the lead writer Vladimir Pešić.

These conditions and the revealed decrease in native to the island gastropod variety should induce initiatives to preserve this delicate pond environment. The IUCN Red Record of Confronted Varieties contains 21 native to the island species from the Skadar Lake sink. Six of them are evaluated as Seriously Vulnerable and nine are detailed as Vulnerable. All this comes to say that being such a useful bio-diversity place, Skadar Lake must be maintained together with its native to the island biota.



REFERENCES

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