

SPECIFICITY OF THE ICHTHYOFAUNA OF LAKE SKADAR, PART OF THE OHRID-DRIM-SKADAR SYSTEM IN MONTENEGRO. V. M. Šorić. Faculty of Science, University of Kragujevac, 34000 Kragujevac, Serbia

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The results of several years of research on the ichthyofauna of the basin of Lake Skadar indicate its specificity relative to the ichthyofauna of Lake Ohrid and the White Drim River. According to the data of a number of authors the ichthyological wealth of the Ohrid–Drim–Skadar system is not merely a consequence of the presence of the old primary fauna, but also a result of the penetration of ichthyological elements from the Danube and Adriatic basins, as well as largely a result of species differentiation in the lake and river parts of the system (S. Karaman, 1924; M. Karaman, 1978; Šorić, 1999). Due to intercommunication within the Ohrid-Drim-Skadar system through the Drim and the Bojana Rivers (with Šasko Lake), the system contains several common elements, such as: *Barbus pelopone-*

sus rebeli, *Alburnus alborella*, *Barbatula barbatula sturanyi*, and *Gobio gobio ohridanus*. However, the ichthyofauna of Lake Skadar also differs qualitatively in a number of ways from that of Lake Ohrid. Whereas *Acantholingua ohridana* (Steindalimer, 1982) (syn. *Salmothymus ohridanus*) is found in Lake Ohrid, the basin of Lake Skadar contains *Salmo zetensis* Hadžišće, 1960, which Kottelat (1977) considers it a synonym for the species *Salmothymus obtusirostris* (Heckel, 1858). The species *Leuciscus montenegrinus* (Vuković, 1963) is found in the basin of Lake Skadar, but does not exist in Lake Ohrid.

Marić (1989) recognizes two varieties of *Rutilus*, including the subspecies *Rutilus basak ohridanus* (Karaman,



Fig. 1. *Barbatula barbatula sturanyi* from the Cijevna River (tributary of the Morača River) (1) and *Barbatula barbatula zetensis* from the Zeta River (2).

1924). However, Kottelat (1977) [according to Bianco (1986), Economidis (1991), and Fowler (1977)] considers *Rutilus prespensis vukovici* to be a synonym for *Rutilus karamani* Fowler, 1977 and that *Rutilus basak ohridanus* is a synonym for *Rutilus ohridanus* (Karaman). It has been confirmed that these two varieties live in Lake Skadar (Ivanović, 1971; Marić, 1989), whereas in Lake Ohrid and the White Drim only the existence of *Rutilus ohridanus* (syn. *R. rubilo* ssp. *ohridanus*) (Naumovski, 1995; Šorić, 1990; Georgijev, 1998) is known. Šorić (2000) states that the two subspecies *Barbatula barbatula sturanyi* (syn. *Nemacheilus barbatulus sturanyi* (Steindachner, 1892) and *Barbatula barbatula zetensis* (Šorić, 2000) (Fig. 1) (syn. *Orthrias barbatulus zetensis*) exist in the basin of Lake Skadar, only the ssp. *sturanyi* is known for Lake Ohrid.

After analyzing the specimen of *Chondrostoma* from Steinocheura's collection, Elvira (1987) described two species from Lake Skadar, viz., *Chondrostoma scodrensis* Elvira, 1987 and *Chondrostoma nasus* (Linnaeus, 1758). However, Šorić (1992), Crivilli and Rosecci (1984), Marić and Šorić (2003) maintain that *C. scodrensis* has become extinct and that the Ohrid-Drim-Skadar system contains the species *Chondrostoma ohridanum* (Karaman, 1924), which was formed in Lake Ohrid and entered Lake Skadar through the Bojana River. In the course of analysing collected examples of *Chondrostoma nasus* from the basin of Lake Skadar, we noticed some

variability in the number of branchiospines, which Elvira takes as an important characteristic for the separation of *Chondrostoma scodrensis*. This indicates that the ichthyofauna in the basin of Lake Skadar has not yet been sufficiently explored and requires a detailed analysis with implementation of the classical and contemporary methods.

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