

Land snails from Sason Mountains in Siirt Province in eastern Anatolia

by Rıdvan Şeşen and Hartwig Schütt

Abstract: The malacofauna of Sason Mountains in eastern Anatolia has been studied. 16 species of land snails were found, some of which are endemic and were only recently described.

Kurzfassung: Ein erster Überblick über die Molluskenfauna des Sason-Gebirges in Ostanatolien bringt 16 Arten Landschnecken, von denen einige Endemiten sind und erst kürzlich beschrieben wurden.

Key words: Turkey, East Anatolia, Siirt Province, Sason Mountains, land snails, endemics, Middle East.

Our knowledge of the systematics and taxonomy of the land snails in Turkey has increased considerably in recent years (see overview by SCHÜTT 1996), and this provides the basis for the study and better understanding of regional faunas. The assessment of the faunal composition of certain areas or regions was previously extremely difficult due to the lack of taxonomic information. In the triangle between Erzurum, Diyarbakır and Van in eastern Turkey, there are several more or less isolated mountain ridges and their study seems to be worthwhile from a zoogeographic point of view. We selected the Sason Mountains (Sason Dağları) between Kozluk and Baykan for a first survey of the Mollusca fauna. We found 15 species of shell-bearing land snails and one slug from this area.

Orculella sirianocoriensis libanotica (Tristram, 1865) (Fig. 1: 1–2)

1854 *Pupa dolium* var. *sirianocoriensis* MOUSSON, Mitt. naturf. Ges. Zürich, 3(8)[102]: 386.

1865 *Pupa libanotica* TRISTRAM, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1865: 538.

1880 *Pupa moussoni* REINHARDT, Sitz.-ber. Ges. naturf. Freunde Berlin, 1879(2): 44.

1885 *Pupa (Orcula) orientalis* var. *cedrorum* WESTERLUND, Fauna, 1. Suppl.: 141.

1910 *Pupa (Orcula) orientalis* var. *coerulescens* NÄGELE, Nachr.-bl. dtsh. malakozool. Ges., 42(4): 151.

1996 *Orculella sirianocoriensis libanotica*, -- HAUSDORF, Arch. Molluskenkde., 125(1/2): 31-35.

This species is widespread in Turkey from Adana through southern Anatolia and Syria, Iraq to Iran and Israel. The typical subspecies was described from Cyprus and its range extends to southern Anatolia. The subspecies *O. sirianocoriensis libanotica* was described from Lebanon and extends to the east of Hatay. This was already known by NÄGELE (1910) who described *Pupa (Orcula) orientalis* var. *coerulescens* from "Sert, Mesopotamiae superioris". We found *O. sirianocoriensis libanotica* near Siirt as well as near Lice and Kulp and at