

The rediscovery of *Zonites algirus* in İstanbul, Turkey (Gastropoda: Pulmonata: Zonitidae)

by Aydın Örstan

Abstract. The land snail *Zonites algirus* was collected on Sedef Island off İstanbul in the Sea of Marmara in August 2002. The previous records of this species from the İstanbul area were in 1854 and 1863. The genitalia of a specimen are illustrated and data on the variation of shell shape in *Z. algirus* are given. At present it is not clear if the species is native to the İstanbul area.

Kurzfassung. Die Landschnecke *Zonites algirus* wurde auf der Sedef-Insel, einer der im Marmarameer gelegenen Prinzeninseln, im August 2002 gesammelt. Vorhergehende Nachweise aus dem Gebiet von İstanbul stammen von 1854 und 1863. Die Genitalien eines Exemplares und Daten zur Variabilität der Gehäuseform werden dargestellt. Gegenwärtig ist es nicht klar, ob die Art im Gebiet von İstanbul heimisch ist.

Key words. Land snail, alien species, shell shape, genitalia.

Introduction

The distribution range of the land snail *Zonites algirus* (Linnaeus, 1758) extends from the south of France through Italy and southern Peloponnisos, Greece, to the Island of Lésvos in the Aegean Sea (RIEDEL 1985, 1987, 1998). On mainland Turkey, the species has been recorded at the ruins of Pergamum near Bergama (RIEDEL 1985, SCHÜTT 2001) and in İstanbul (MOUSSON 1854, 1863). The lack of recent records of *Z. algirus* from İstanbul prompted RIEDEL (1987) to point out the need to search for the species in that area.

On 15 August 2002, I found *Z. algirus* on Sedef Island off İstanbul, thus confirming the existence of this species in the İstanbul area. Sedef Island, approximately 400x1200 m, is one of the so-called Prince Islands in the Sea of Marmara. Most of the island is private property to which access is restricted. The only publicly accessible area consists of a boat dock and a nearby restaurant on the north side of the island, and a rocky beach along the west coast connected to the dock by a narrow path. I collected 34 empty shells and 1 live adult specimen of *Z. algirus* on the island. Most of the specimens, including the live one, were from the base of what appeared to be a natural rock outcrop along the path to the beach (my station A15; UTM zone 35 E680500 m, N4524416 m). The outcrop, facing northwest, had an approximately 2-m wide border of soil shaded by trees where snails were abundant. A few shells were from the grounds of the restaurant about 200 m to the north.

Thirty specimens (CM 63744) have been deposited in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA, U.S.A.