

New records of freshwater and land molluscs from Lebanon

(Mollusca: Gastropoda & Bivalvia)

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Abstract: A total of 17 freshwater and 33 land gastropod species as well as 6 small clams from different habitats were found during a study of limnic and terrestrial molluscs in central and northern Lebanon. New records for Lebanon or the Levant countries include *Stagnicola* cf. *berlani* (Bourguignat, 1870) sensu Kruglov, 2005, *Planorbis carinatus* O. F. Müller, 1774, and *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* (J. E. Gray, 1843) as well as the clams *Musculium lacustre* (O. F. Müller, 1774), *Pisidium amnicum* (O. F. Müller, 1774), and *Pisidium tenuilineatum* Stelfox, 1918. Among the land snails, *Orculella mesopotamica riedeli* Hausdorf, 1996, *Buliminus damascensis* (Pallary, 1929), *Turanena benjamitica* (Benson, 1859), *Sphincterochila fimbriata* (Bourguignat, 1852), and *Monacha* cf. *compingtae* (Pallary, 1929) are new for Lebanon.

Key words. Gastropoda, Bivalvia, Lebanon, freshwater molluscs, landsnails, slugs.

Introduction

Our current knowledge of the land snails of Lebanon is based on the work of Georges and Henriette Tohmé (TOHMÉ & TOHMÉ 1988). In their review, the authors also acknowledge – apart from their own findings – the older reports by GERMAIN (1921) and PALLARY (1929, 1939). Since then, only a little information has been added to these works. The greater part of more recent information is concerned with species distribution, taxonomic revisions, and review papers dealing with the molluscan faunas in neighbouring countries (HELLER 1984, HAUSDORF 1996, SCHÜTT 2001).

To date, there is no work summarizing the freshwater molluscs of Lebanon. SCHÜTT (1983) presented results from field excursions by R. KINZELBACH in the 1970s (KINZELBACH 1980), taking into consideration the older works of GERMAIN (1921, 1922) and PALLARY (1939). Focussing on the Orontes river system, SCHÜTT also reported on freshwater gastropods and bivalves from the Litani drainage area as well as from smaller flowing waters which drain directly into the Mediterranean Sea. More recent studies are by KINZELBACH (1986, 1992) concerning selected limnic taxa and by SCHÜTT (1993, SCHÜTT & ŞEŞEN 1993) dealing with prosobranchs, and these complement the earlier findings of the distribution of freshwater mollusca in Lebanon.

Material and methods

Several areas in Northern and Central Lebanon were sampled in 2006. Special emphasis was laid on the Lebanon Mountains and their foothills up to altitudes of 3000 metres as well as on the Bekaa plain. Further sampling points are located at the edge of the Chouf and the northern coast