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New records for the Kosovo caddisfly fauna with the description of a new species, *Drusus dardanicus* sp. nov. (Trichoptera: Limnephilidae)

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Abstract

The Balkan Peninsula is one of the most important European hotspots of freshwater biodiversity. The region is, however, to a large extent insufficiently investigated. Here we present data on distribution of caddisflies in one particularly understudied area, the Republic of Kosovo. Our data include the first records of *Adicella altandroconia* Botosaneanu & Novak and *Halesus tessellatus* (Rambur) for the Kosovo caddisfly fauna, and a new locality for the recently described *Ecclisopteryx keroveci* Previšić, Graf, & Vitecek. Further, we describe the new caddisfly species *Drusus dardanicus* **sp. nov.** from the Kopaonik Mountains. The new species belongs to the *D. discophorus* Species Group and differs morphologically from its most similar congeners (*D. discophorus* Radovanović, *D. balcanicus* Kumanski, and *D. bureschi* Kumanski) mainly in exhibiting (1) subtrianglar superior appendages; (2) a narrow, dorsal spinate area of tergite VIII; and (3) evenly rounded tips of intermediate appendages in caudal view. In phylogenetic analysis, *D. dardanicus* **sp. nov.** is well delineated and recovered as a sister taxon to *D. osogovicus* Kumanski, a species recorded from Bulgaria. The recent discovery of a new species and other rare or microendemic species presents important contributions to the knowledge on the rich freshwater biodiversity in Kosovo. These species face increasing anthropogenic pressure and threats to their conservation.

Key words: species description, Drusinae, freshwater biodiversity, Balkan Peninsula, conservation, taxonomy

Introduction

The Balkan Peninsula is recognized as one of the most important European freshwater biodiversity hotspots (Gottstein-Matočec *et al.* 2002, Kryštufek & Reed 2004) with high rates of endemism in Trichoptera (e.g., Kučinić *et al.* 2014). Putatively, historic climate conditions and geological properties of the area induced enhanced speciation, resulting in high species richness and high proportions of cryptic diversity of aquatic biota (Bănărescu 2004; Previšić *et al.* 2009, 2014a, 2014b; Zakšek *et al.* 2009; Weiss *et al.* 2014).

The limnephilid subfamily Drusinae Banks 1916 comprises eight genera, with the genus *Drusus* Stephens, containing the greatest number of species (e.g., Kumanski 1973; Sipahiler 1999, 2002; Malicky 2002, 2004). The majority of *Drusus* species are regional or micro-endemics inhabiting single mountain ranges in Europe, the Balkan Peninsula, and Asia Minor (Malicky 1979, 1983; de Moor & Ivanov 2008; Graf *et al.* 2008). There are currently 85 species and 6 subspecies placed within this genus, including 10 species described during recent years

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