



**«Actions to protect, conserve and promote biodiversity. Field studies of endemic, endangered and nationally important species of Greece». Funded by the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA)**

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## **TITLE**

**Population status and phylogenetic affinities of the local endemic Critically Endangered freshwater species *Marstoniopsis graeca***

(Project ID: 13665)

## **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**

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## **HOST INSTITUTION**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Greece has several ancient and putative ancient lakes such as Lake Prespa, Lake Dojran, Lake Vegoritis, Lake Pamvotis and Lake Trichonis. However, the information about their freshwater gastropod is still sparse and partly controversial due to the absence of a comprehensive faunal assessment. The family Amnicolidae is widely distributed across the Palearctic, Nearctic, and northern Asia. The species of this family occur in all types of freshwater systems from very small springs and streams to very large lakes. Some species have very wide ranges while others are known from a few locations or a single location. One of the species of this family present in Greece is *Marstoniopsis graeca* (Radoman, 1978) that has been recorded in the long-lived lakes of the northern part of the country. *M. graeca* is a local endemic species only found on rocks and stones in the littoral zone of Lake Vegoritis. This species is listed as Critically Endangered (CR) in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and its populations are seriously threatened. Within the frame of this project we aim to investigate the population status and the phylogenetic relationships of *M. graeca* and provide updated data concerning the localities of the species' populations. At the same time we will generate sequence data from the targeted species that will aid in the phylogenetic placement of the species and to the estimation of its effective population size. The data that will be generated within this project will permit a solid assessment of the conservation status of the species and serve as the basis for planning spatially focused conservation actions.

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