



«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)

TITLE

Study of the Critically Endangered species of the genus *Zonites* (Mollusca, Gastropoda) on southeastern islets of the central Aegean

(Project ID: 13693)

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ABSTRACT

The genus *Zonites* comprises 31 species in total, and most of them, 25 species, occur in southern Greece. There are 18 Greek endemic *Zonites* species, four of which have been characterized as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened species. These are *Z. embolium*, *Z. nautarum*, *Z. invitus* and *Z. astakidae*, and they are found only on the small islets of the Syrna archipelago on the central Aegean. This study aims to survey 15 islets of the Syrna archipelago and two neighbouring islets in order to delimit for *Z. embolium*, *Z. nautarum* and *Z. invitus* their exact present distribution, evaluate their population status, locate new populations, gather data on their biological cycle and ecology, confirm or reject their extinction on certain islets, and clarify the taxonomic status of the *Zonites* n.sp. recorded from Chamili islet. Also, we will explore two nearby islets where data on snails and *Zonites* are unknown. *Z. astakidae* will not be included in this study, because in 2018 members of the team visited Astakida and Astakipodoula islets and collected data for the species. All the fieldwork will take place during the rainy period (November – April), because during this period snails are active in this part of Greece.
