



«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

Population status and phylogenetic affinities of the local endemic Critically Endangered freshwater species *Pseudoislamia balcanica*

(Project ID: 14859)

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ABSTRACT

Although freshwater gastropods constitute a very important factor of freshwater ecosystems, their true biodiversity remains unknown, especially for minute snails belonging to family Hydrobiidae. Despite Greece be considered a hotspot of endemism and biodiversity concerning hydrobiid fauna, with nine genera and sixteen species of valvatoids recorded so far, our knowledge about different features of most species remains limited. The aim of this project is to provide data about systematics, phylogenetic relationships, habitat, and populations' distribution of the Critically Endangered valvatiform species *Pseudoislamia balcanica*, which is local endemic of Lake Trichonis (Aitoloakarnania, Greece) and the surrounding lotic freshwaters. All the collected data will contribute to the knowledge of biodiversity of freshwater systems in Greece and will be extremely helpful for the conservation of not only *P. balcanica*, but other hydrobiids inhabiting the same localities too, preventing extreme reduction on their populations or even extinction. To thoroughly study the small-sized populations of *P. balcanica*, all known localities where this species has already been found as well as localities with suitable habitat for this taxon around Lake Trichonis will be sampled. The field survey will last about seven months, so that seasonal fluctuation in population size will be observed and measured. To achieve the aim of this project, morphological and anatomical studies as well as molecular analyses will be performed on the specimens collected from the field. Moreover, the generated sequences will be used to estimate the effective population size of the species.
