

Communicatio Brevis

Dobatia goettingi Brandt, 1961 (Gastropoda:
Clausiliidae) in Bulgaria

By

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Abstract. Until now it was doubtful whether *Dobatia goettingi* Brandt occurs in Bulgaria. Although empty shells of this species had been collected in the Black Sea coastal region, but they were considered to be originated from Turkey. In the summer of 1997, the authors collected one live specimen in a mixed oak-beech forest in the Istranca Mountains (Strandža planina), near Malko Târnovo. This occurrence proves the presence of this species in Bulgaria.

Bulgaria is situated in the eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula, 25% of its mollusc species are Balkan endemisms, and Pontic elements have a great significance as well (14 %) (Damjanov & Likharev, 1975). Our knowledge about Bulgarian mollusc (and particularly Clausiliidae) fauna increased rapidly during the second half of this century (Urbanski, 1960b; Urbanski, 1978; Pintér, 1968; Pintér & Pintér, 1970; Sajó, 1968; Damjanov & Likharev, 1975).

Considering its distribution, *Dobatia goettingi* is a typical Pontic species, it lives in the northern and north-western part of Turkey (Németh & Szekeres, 1995; Schütt, 1996) in forests, mainly among the roots of dead and slightly decaying trees (Fig. 1). In Nordsieck's (1973) opinion it lives facultatively in caves as well. *Dobatia goettingi* does not occur in the European part of Turkey, and in Bulgaria only empty shells have been observed so far. An empty, bleached shell was collected from flotsam at the tide-flushed estuary of the Ropotamo River by L. Pintér (in the collection of the Natural History Museum, Budapest, NHMB 31230/1), three others were found at Kiten, at the foot of a cliff by Urbanski (1978) (Fig. 2).

It is well known that shells of the *Serrulina*-group can travel large distances over the Black Sea, e.g. Urbanski (1960a) reported to find *Filosa filosa* Mousson and *Euxina dipolauchen* O. Boettger near Burgas in flotsam,

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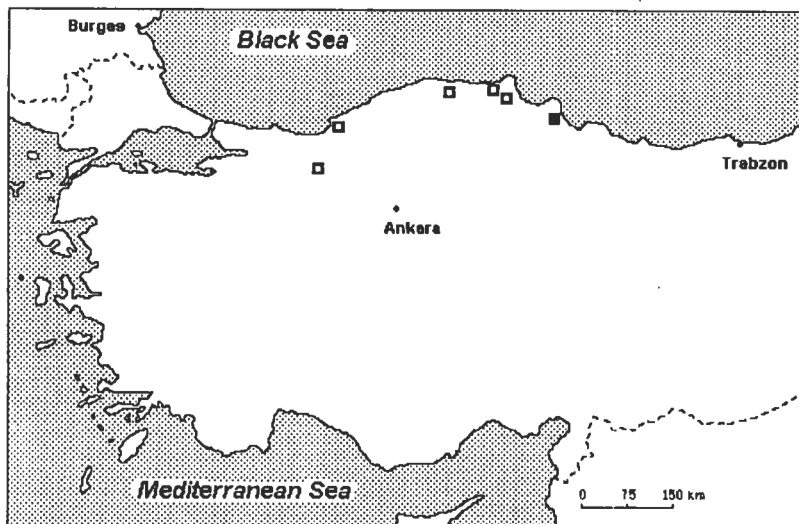


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Dobatia* in Turkey. Empty squares indicate *D. goettingi* Brandt, filled square indicates *D. mariae* Németh & Szekeres, which is considered a probable subspecies of the former one (M. Szekeres, personal communication)

in spite of they live east and southeast of the Black Sea. By the opinion of Németh & Szekeres (1995) *Dobatia* specimens, found in Bulgaria, could probably be originated from Turkey by drifting across the Black sea by east-west currents. Thus, until now the existence of *Dobatia goettingi* was rather doubtful in Bulgaria.

Materials and methods

Authors and Mr. Kornél Kovács took part in a field trip in the western region of the Balkan Peninsula between 24/07/1997 and 30/07/1997. Sampling was done by singling in 26 localities. Out of them 8 were in the area of the Southern Carpathians, 3 in the Balkan Mountains (Stara planina), 5 in the Rhodope Mountains, 6 in the Istranca Mountains (Strandža planina) and 4 in the coastal region of the Black Sea between Burgas and the Turkish border.

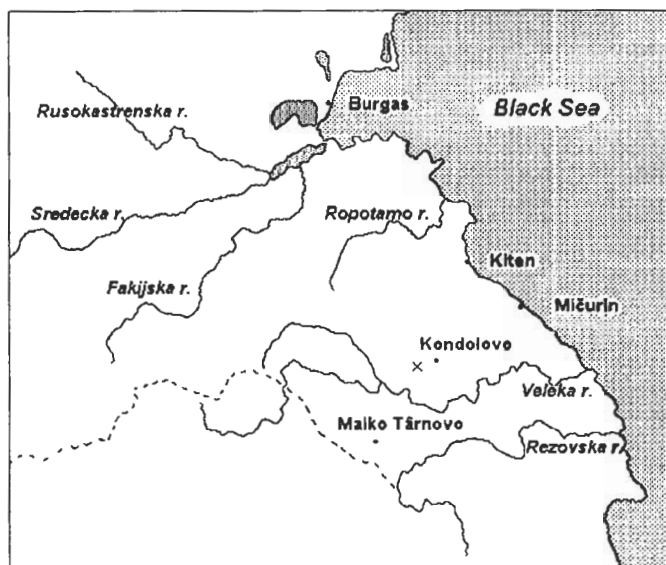


Fig. 2. Bulgarian occurrence of *Dobatia goettingi* Brandt (indicated by crosses)

Results

One live specimen of *Dobatia goettingi* was found in the locality: Istranca Mountains, on the road from Mičurin to Malko Tärnovo, 3 km W of Kondolovo, 29/07/1997 in a mixed oak-beech forest, at a foot of a dead and fallen tree (NHMB 70855/1) (Figs. 2 and 3). This place is about 20 kilometres far from the sea. The following other species were found there: *Leiostyla (Euxinolauria) schweigeri* Götting, *Lauria cylindracea* Da Costa, *Euxina paulhessei* Lindholm, *Euxina circumdata* L. Pfeiffer, *Serrulina serrulata* L. Pfeiffer, *Laciniaria plicata* Draparnaud, *Lindholmiola girva* Frivaldszky and *Oxychilus deilus rumelicus* Hesse.

Conclusions

The fact, that only one specimen was found, does not contradict the former findings, i.e. in its Turkish area it is generally not abundant and due to

its subterranean life form, is difficult to find (M. Szekeres, personal communication). Considering the status of the specimen found, we can conclude that *Dobatia goettingi* does exist in Europe: inside the Istranca Mountains, Bulgaria.

The locality where the live specimen (NHMB 70855/1) was found belongs to the Veleka River's catchment area, but now our recent finding suggests, that the specimen found at the estuary of Ropotamo River (NHMB 31230/1) originates also from the Istranca Mountains. Thus, we can assume that *Dobatia goettingi* has a larger distribution area including the catchment areas of Veleka, Ropotamo and Rezovska rivers.

This data however do not answer the question: is this population a relict of a former large area, or the result of their present spreading?

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