

Testate Amoebae (Protozoa, Rhizopoda) of the Smradlivo Ezero Glacial Lake in the Rila National Park (Southwestern Bulgaria)

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Abstract: The species diversity and the distribution of testate amoebae in different biotopes were investigated. A total of 86 taxa testaceans, belonging to 25 genera were recorded in 22 samples, collected from the benthos, the littoral zone and the wet coastal mosses of the Smradlivo Ezero - the biggest glacial lake in Bulgaria. The testacean taxocenoses in the lake studied are mainly composed of typical aquatic or sphagnophilous species of the genera *Diffflugia* (21 taxa), *Euglypha* (10), *Centropyxis* (9) and *Nebela* (9), and the representatives of the genus *Diffflugia* have a manifested predominance. The complexes of dominant species in the studied biotopes are rather different and include: *T. lineare*, *C. aerophila*, *C. sylvatica*, *E. acanthophora* (in littoral), *D. viscidula*, *C. ecornis*, *D. oblonga*, *Z. compressa* (in benthos), and *E. ciliata*, *Q. symmetrica*, *Sph. fissirostris*, *T. lineare*, *D. elegans*, *M. patella*, *C. aerophila*, *C. ampulla*, *D. pulex* (in coastal mosses). Furthermore, it was found out that the species diversity of the testacean fauna in the coastal mosses is two times bigger than that in the benthos, and three times greater than that in the littoral (74, 37 and 24 taxa, respectively). The comparison between the testacean fauna of the Smradlivo Ezero Lake and that of some well-studied glacial lakes in the Rila National Park, like the Ribni Ezera Lakes and the Sedemte Ezera Lakes, shows that there is not a big similarity between them (coefficients of faunal similarity of Jaccard are 48% and 57%, respectively).

Key words: Rhizopoda, testate amoebae, ecology, glacial lakes, Rila National Park.