

The Ichthyofauna from the Bulgarian Sector of the Mesta River.

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Abstract: Mesta is the smallest of the North-Aegean rivers risen on Bulgarian territory, and with the higher watershed in the country. Previous investigations have shown about 10 species characteristic of the Bulgarian sector and 17 of the Greek one, respectively. As regards this investigation there have been established 20 fish taxa, other 4 mentioned before have not been detected. The higher number of species represents the family of Cyprinids. Most of them are rheophilic and have native origin, whereas the presence of some other fluvio-lacustrine or still-water European and alien species has been observed, too.

Other three species found in the Dospat Reservoir have not entered the river yet, their presence there is doubtful. 5 taxa mentioned before have not been established, either.

Key words: Mesta, fishes, species composition, North-Aegean rivers.