

On the Drift of the Zooplankton from Glacial Lakes in the Rila Mountain (SW Bulgaria)

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Abstract: The qualitative and quantitative parameters and the survival of the drifting zooplankton were investigated. Streams outflowing from the seven glacial lakes in the Rila Mountain (SW Bulgaria) were the objects of the present study. The quantities of the zooplankton decreased in the direction from the upper to the lower situated lake. This depends on the composition and the quantitative parameters of zooplankton in the lakes at the same time. The highest general quantities - (ind./m³) were found in the autumn on the outflow of the lakes when the maximum development of zooplankton was registered in the lakes. The highest quantities of the drifting per second quantities of zooplankton were registered in July from the Salzata Lake - 202 ind./per sec. During that time the outflowing streams had the highest volume and velocity, because of the melting snow. The small strongly armoured zooplanktonic animals survived better in the streams. They were the prevailing part of the zooplankton components found at the stations near to the inflow of the lower lakes. Crustaceans were poorly presented in the streams, even in the outflows of the lakes. It is possible also that the big crustaceans resist better to the streams in the regions of the outflows.

Key words: zooplankton; zooplankton drift; lakes; mountain streams