

Morphology, Biometry and Ecology of *Playfairina valkanovi* GOLEMANSKY, 1966 (Testaceafilosia: Trinematidae), with a Supplement to the Diagnosis of the Genus *Playfairina* THOMAS, 1961

*Vassil Golemansky*¹, *Milcho Todorov*¹

Abstract: An investigation of *Playfairina valkanovi* by SEM was accomplished for the first time. It was shown that the cross-section of the test and the aperture of the animal were oval and the shell was composed of two kinds of siliceous plates: about 60 circular or oval, incompletely overlapping large plates, and many small plates, filling the interstices between the large plates. A characteristic feature of *P. valkanovi* is the presence of a brief evaginated collar around the aperture, composed of 1-2 rows of small elliptic or prolonged plates. The inside of the aperture is bordered by 12-18 denticulate apertural plates. The biometrical analysis of 58 shells shows that the coefficients of variation of all characters are low and characterize *P. valkanovi* as a monomorphic species. On the basis of the study of *P. valkanovi* an updated and supplemented diagnosis of the genus *Playfairina* is proposed. After a brief review of the ecology and the distribution of *P. valkanovi* the authors conclude that it is a widely spread moss- and soil-dwelling testate amoeba, with preferences to the high-mountain *Sphagnum*-habitats.

Key words: ecology, morphology, *Playfairina*, Protozoa, taxonomy, Testaceafilosia.