

Testate Amoebae (Rhizopoda: Testacea) of the Veleka River in the Strandzha Natural Park (South-East Bulgaria)

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Abstract: The biodiversity and the ecology of the testate amoebae in the Veleka River in the Strandzha Mountain were studied. A total of 80 species of testate amoebae, belonging to 21 genera, were identified in different biotopes of the river. Four of them are announced for the first time in the Bulgarian fauna. It was found that the benthal is characterized by the highest species diversity - a total of 59 species were found, whereas in phytal and mosses the species diversity is smaller (41 and 35 species, respectively). In all of the studied biotopes the spread of the typical aquatic representatives of the genera *Diffflugia*, *Centropyxis* and *Euglypha* is the widest - 55% of the species. Considering the relative significance of the genera, it was found out that the genera *Trinema* (46,2%), *Euglypha* (18,4%), *Centropyxis* (7,4%), *Diffflugia* (5,8%) and *Difflugiella* (5,2%), which include 83% of the individuals in the river, have a dominant role. An attempt was made to explain the structure of the communities and the categories of testate amoebae in them. In the studied biotopes the number of accidental and subrecent species was the largest, whereas the number of the constant and the dominant ones was relatively smaller - respectively 15 and 8 of the total 80 species found in the river.

Key words: Testate amoebae, Veleka River, distribution, frequency, dominant structure