

Morphological Variability of *Diffflugia urceolata* CARTER, 1864 (Testacealobosia: Difflogiidae) and Taxonomical Status of its Varieties *D. urceolata* var. *olla* LEIDY, 1879, and *D. urceolata* var. *sphaerica* PLAYFAIR, 1917

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Abstract. The morphological variability and morphometry of the freshwater testate amoeba *Diffflugia urceolata* CARTER, isolated from the benthic samples of the tectonic Lake Doiran (Macedonia) were studied. Based on the morphometrical data of 248 specimens, high variability of the main shell characters in *D. urceolata* was emphasized and was concluded that it is a size-polymorphic species. Besides, the taxonomical status of the two varieties of *D. urceolata*, namely *D. urceolata* var. *olla* LEIDY and *D. urceolata* var. *sphaerica* PLAYFAIR, found in the same population, is discussed. Many intermediate forms between the nominant species and these two varieties were established and it was not possible to distinguish them clearly. Based on the obtained data, it is concluded that two varieties – *D. urceolata* var. *olla* LEIDY and *D. urceolata* var. *sphaerica* PLAYFAIR, should be considered synonyms of *D. urceolata* CARTER.

Key words: biometry, *Diffflugia urceolata*, shell ultrastructure, taxonomy, testate amoebae