

# A Study of the Moss Testate Amoebae (Protozoa: Testacea) of the Strandzha Natural Park (South-Eastern Bulgaria)

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**Abstract:** The testate amoebae diversity and communities structure in epiphytic and soil mosses in the natural reserves of Uzunbudzhak and Silkosiya (in the Strandzha Natural Park) were studied. A total of 40 taxa, belonging to 15 genera were observed. Thirty four taxa and 13 genera of them were found in the epiphytic mosses, and 31 taxa and 13 genera – in the soil mosses. The main components of the testacean communities are chiefly eurybiotic species with cosmopolitan distribution. The testate amoebae fauna of the studied epiphytic and soil mosses is quite similar in terms of its taxonomic richness, diversity and structure of the communities. In the studied biotopes the majority of the taxa belong to the genera *Euglypha*, *Centropyxys* and *Trinema*. The studies show that the complexes of the most frequently occurring and dominating species in both biotopes are considerably similar. The constant taxa with a high relative significance in biotopes are: *Centropyxys aerophila* v. *sphagnicola*, *C. aerophila*, *Phryganella hemisphaerica*, *Euglypha rotunda*, *Corythion dubium*, *Trinema enchelys* and *Tr. lineare*.

**Key words:** Uzunbudzhak, Silkosiya, epiphytic mosses, soil mosses, similarity, dominance frequency, testaceans