

Diversity and Biotopic Distribution of Testate Amoebae (Protozoa: Arcellinida and Euglyphida) in the Batak Reservoir (Southern Bulgaria)

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Abstract: The species' diversity, occurrence and dominant structure of testate amoebae in the littoral and benthal of the Batak Reservoir (Southern Bulgaria) were studied. A total of 93 taxa from 21 genera of testate amoebae were observed. The testacean taxocenoses were mainly composed by typical aquatic inhabitants of the genera *Diffflugia* (47), *Centropyxis* (11), *Euglypha* (7) and *Arcella* (6). The genus *Diffflugia* had a manifested predominance in both the littoral and benthal of the reservoir. *T. lineare*, *D. oblonga*, *D. elegans*, *D. pulex*, *D. urceolata*, *C. aculeata*, *C. ecornis*, *L. modesta* and *P. chromatophora* were the most frequently occurring testate amoebae and had the greatest population density. The complexes of dominant species in the biotopes studied were different and include *Cyphoderia ampulla*, *Centropyxis platystoma*, *Trinema enchelys* and *T. lineare* – in littoral, and *Diffflugia oblonga*, *D. microclaviformis*, *D. urceolata*, *D. labiosa*, *Centropyxis ecornis* and *C. marsupiformis* – in benthal. The species' diversity in the benthal is considerably richer than that in the littoral (72 and 47 taxa, respectively). The comparison between the testacean fauna of the Batak Reservoir and that of two other well-studied reservoirs in Bulgaria (Ticha and Beli Iskar) shows that there is not a big similarity between them (coefficients of faunal similarity of Jaccard are 13,9 – 48,2% on a species level and 48,4 – 59,4% on a genus level).

Key words: Protozoa, testate amoebae, biotopic distribution, dominant structure, Bulgaria