Diversity and Biotopic Distribution of Testate Amoebae (Arcellinida and Euglyphida) in Ticha Dam (Northeastern Bulgaria)

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Abstract: The diversity and ecology of the testaceans in Ticha Dam (Northeastern Bulgaria) have been studied. A total of 104 species, belonging to 24 genera of testate amoebae, were established in the benthal and in the pelagial of the studied dam. The benthal in the littoral zone of the dam (depth from 0.5 to 3 m) had the biggest diversity (79 species), followed by   the deep-water benthal (5 - 40 m) with 63 species. The third studied biotope – the dam pelagial showed a significantly lower diversity (17 species only). The genera *Difflugia* (58 species) and *Centropyxis* (14), which include 69% of the species and about 60% of the individuals, were dominant. The frequency of occurrence and the relative abundance of all found testate amoebae were analyzed, and it was established that the complexes of constant and dominant species differ from each other in the different biotopes. For the new testaceans to the Bulgarian protozoan fauna - *Corythionella georgiana* Nicholls, 2005; *Difflugia bistrica* Ogden & Živković, 1983; *Difflugia dragana* Ogden & Živković, 1983; *Difflugia giganteacuminata* Chardez, 1984; *Difflugia mammilaris* var. *oranensis* (Penard, 1902) Gauthier- Lièvre & Thomas, 1958; *Lesquereusia mimetica* var. *parva* Gauthier.-Lièvre & Thomas, 1959 and *Schoenbornia viscicula* Schönborn, 1964 data about their distribution and biometry, as well as the original photos or drawings are presented.

Key words: Testate amoebae, Ticha Dam, frequency, dominant structure, biometry, morphology