



BIODIVERSITY OF WESTERN RHODOPE (BULGARIA AND GREECE). II.

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The geographic location of Bulgaria, the diverse relieve and the favourable climate of Southeast Europe are important factors for formation and maintenance of rich organism diversity represented by over 5000 non-vascular and vascular plants, and

over 35 000 animal species established up to now. The information about this biological richness of Bulgaria has been published in hundreds of papers, catalogues, books and collections in the country and beyond, published in the course of more than a century and sometimes is difficult to access even for the specialists.

The initiative of the National Museum for Natural Sciences in Sofia to prepare and publish a book series presenting the biological diversity of interesting mountain massifs in the country and the closest board regions in just on time and extremely useful, especially for the younger generation botanists, zoologists, ecologists, and nature protectors. At the beginning of 2012 the second part of this series, entitled 'Biodiversity in Bulgaria', vol. 4 – 'Biodiversity of Western Rhodopes (Bulgaria and Greece) was published. It includes 20 scientific papers on the biodiversity and ecology of large number of plant and animal group taxa. The 18th zoological articles includes data on more than 3136 species of animals from Rotifera (45 species), Nematoda (163), Araneae (418), Acari (227), Myriapoda (108), Dermaptera, Orthoptera, Blattodea, Mantodea and Isoptera (125), Plecoptera (52), Aphidodea (87), Formicidae (71), Scarabaeoidea (138), Pselaphinae (50), Buprestidae (73), Phoridae (59), Lepidoptera (935), Chiroptera (30) and many others few numbered groups as Tardigrada, Crustacea, Collembola, Diplura, Siphonaptera, Diptera etc. The articles consist of actualized lists of animals of Western Rhodopes, as well as full bibliographical list for different taxa. However, some important groups of animals from Rhodopes, such as Isopoda, Opiliones, Heteroptera, Homoptera, parts of Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, Staphylinidae, Elateridae, Neuroptera etc. are not covered in this volume.

Nevertheless, the editor and the authors must be congratulated for their efforts to present the modern actualized data of biodiversity of one of the richest and interesting by it's biodiversity Balkan region.