



Atlas of the Gobies (Gobiidae) in Bulgaria

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The last monograph written about the Bulgarian gobies appears more than 40 years ago. In the new book the most recent data for this group are present, based on the original results of the investigations of the authors. The project was financed by MEYS-Bulgarian Science Fund.

Three new species for the Bulgarian fish gobiid fauna have been discovered and described in the book: *Neogobius eurycephalus*, *Pomatoschistus marmoratus* and *Pomatoschistus bathi*. Two other species, treated so far as extinct for the Bulgarian fauna, were re-established: *Benthophiloides brauneri* and *Chromogobius quadrivittatus*.

Description of the species is accomplished in alphabetical order according to the Latin name. The list of synonyms contains the most commonly mentioned names in the Bulgarian and foreign literature. Description of the most common and some distinguishing morphological features of every species is presented: number of vertebrae and transverse scale rows on body (squama), number of rays in different fins (D1=first dorsal, D2=second dorsal, A=anal, P=pectoral, V=ventral or pelvic disc, C=caudal), cephalic lateral line system (geni-pores), coloration and others. Description has been accomplished on own material, there have been also used for comparison the guides of Gheorghiev (1966), Miller (2004), Kotellat & Freyhof (2007) and Vasil'eva (2007). A brief species identification key is also given.

The part Biology/Ecology includes some characteristic features, such as fecundity, size, food, preferred habitats etc.

The gobiid distribution in Bulgaria has been illustrated on the applied maps according to 3 chronological periods: before 50's from 50's till 2000 and more recently from 2000.

The Distribution part includes remarks on worldwide, Black Sea and particularly distribution in Bulgaria.

The species conservation status is submitted according to the international and national legislation (IUCN, Black Sea Red Data Book, Red data Book of the Republic of Bulgaria). Some data about the exploitation of each species in Black Sea is given on the basis of estimates made by market sampling, scientific trawler, trap and gill net sampling, underwater transect censuses and fishermen's inquiries.

The monograph is illustrated with original underwater photographs of the observed species, as well as original drawings of the sensory system, which is species specific and important for determination.

The book is addressed not only to the specialists of Gobies and ichthyologists, but to the ecologists, teachers, students and all fans of the Bulgarian fish fauna.