

FIRST RECORDING OF THE SPECIES *Acerina cernua* Linnaeus, 1758 IN THE WATERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

S. Georgiev, V. Kostov

Summary

This paper describes the general importance of this fish species and deals with its first registration in the waters of Macedonia in 1997. Its basic ichthyological parameters are presented, as well as the ichthyofauna of the reservoir where it was found. Based on available data it was tried to trace the origin of this species in Macedonia.

Key words: *Acerina cernua*, Macedonia, introduction

The species *Acerina cernua* Linnaeus, 1758 is an ichthyofauna component of the inland waters in Europe, where it is widely spread from France and England on the West to Siberia and Aral Sea on the East. Out of all the waters bordering with the Republic of Macedonia, it is only found in the Danube (Vuković and Ivanović, 1971). It belongs to the small-sized *Percidae* family whose members do not exceed 20 cm in length.

Together with the rest of the belonging to this family, it is a zoophagous fish, which lives on invertebrates (worms, insect larvae and small molluscs). Do to its miniature size and small number of population, it is of no importance for the local economy.

The first sample found in the waters of the Republic of Macedonia was caught on 4. 10. 1997 in the Tikveš Reservoir, near the place where the Crna flows into the Reservoir, which is its main water provider.

The ichthyofauna of this Reservoir is represented by the autochthonous species of fishes found in the Crna at the moment the dam was closed: *C. carpio*, *A. alburnus*, *R. rutilus*, *L. cephalus*, *Ch. nasus*, *A. bipunctatus*, *B. meridionalis*, *G. gobio*, *S. glanis*, *P. fluviatilis*, *C. taenia*. Among the introduced ones, the following have been recorded: *C. auratus*, *L. gibosus* (Grupče and Dimovski, 1973) as well as *C. caassius*. The species *C. carassius* is found in the Vardar basin, to which the Tikveš Reservoir belongs. However, it is impossible to trace its origin with certainty. Namely, Karaman 1924 in his work PISCES MACEDONIAE, on the table placed between page 82 and page 83, mentions this species as present in the waters of Macedonia (as a

Dr. sc. Simo Georgiev, Vasil Kostov, dipl. ing. University »St. Cyril and Methodius«, Institute for animal science, Fishery department, Ile Ilievski 92^a, 91000 Skopje, Macedonia

geographical region). However, contrary to the rest of the species on the table, he does not give any data about where it was caught. In addition to this, this species is missing from the first table on page 9.

The actual sample of the species *A. cernua* has the following characteristics: l = 127 mm; H = 37,5 mm; the ratio of the highest spot on its body and the length of the body = 29,5; D1 XIV, D2 12, A II/6.

It is difficult to trace origin of this species in the waters of the Republic of Macedonia. Although there are two species of this family (*Percidae*) *P. fluviatilis* L. and *Z. streber* Sieb. are autochthonous in the waters of the Republic of Macedonia, and the third species *S. lucioperca* L. was introduced in the Mladost Reservoir in 1967 (Georgiev and Naumovski, 1982). This species originates from the Danube basin. As it hadn't been recorded in any of the previous ichthyological researches, there is little possibility that it was also autochthonous. It is most probable that it is of more recent origin, and was probably thrown in together with the young carps due to carelessness. The carp was used to stock the warm fish ponds in the middle and upper course of the Crna in Pelagonia (Žabeni, Bel Kamen, Sarandinovo). The possibility that its presence may be result of careless work with fish in neighbouring Greece is hypothetical.

Sažetak

PRVI NALAZ VRSTE *Acerina cernua* Linnaeus, 1758 U VODAMA REPUBLIKE MAKEDONIJE

U radu se iznosi opći značaj ove vrste riba, te navodi njezin prvi nalaz u Makedoniji godine 1997. Daje se njezin osnovni ihtiološki opis, te navodi ihtiofauna akumulacije u kojoj je nađen. Na temelju dostupnih podataka pokušava se analizirati mogući put ulaska ove riblje vrste u vode u Makedoniji.

Ključne riječi: *Acerina cernua*, *Makedonia*, *introdukcija*

REFERENCES

- Georgiev, S., Naumovski, M. (1982): Pike-perch, *Stizostedion lucioperca* from the Mladost reservoir. *Ichthyologia* Beograd. Vol. 14, No. 2: 105–114.
Grupče, R., Dimovski, A (1973): L'ichtyofaune de la riviere Vardar. *Ann. bull. Fac. Sci. Natur. -mathem. Ser. Biol. Skopje.* 25: 59–99.
Karaman, S. (1924): *Pisces Macedoniae*. Hrvatska štamparija. Split.
Vuković, T., Ivanović B. (1971): *Slatkovodne ribe Jugoslavije*. Svjetlost, Sarajevo.

Received 18th November, 1977

Accepted 16th March, 1998