

Aquatic animals

Melanooides tuberculata (O. F. Müller, 1774) Red-rimmed melania



Photo: T. Trichkova

Native region (Continent): Eastern Africa and Southern Asia.

First introduction, current status and distribution in Bulgaria: The only known locality of the species in Bulgaria is a thermal stream adjacent to Pancharevo Lake, near the dam. It was first recorded there in 2015.

Local status: Established.

Entry paths in the region of Pancharevo Lake (if known): Most probably introduced by aquarists.

Observations: Prefers permanent, slow-flowing, shallow water, with temperatures between 18 and 25°C, but can bury itself in the mud and hibernate in winter. Usually found at a substrate consisting of soft mud, or soft mud and sand. At Pancharevo Lake, the species maintains a stable and abundant population confined only to the thermal stream.

***Physella acuta* (Draparnaud, 1805)**
Acute bladder snail



Photo: M. Todorov

Native region (Continent): North America.

First introduction, current status and distribution in Bulgaria: First reported in 1927 from the Maritsa River near Plovdiv Town. Currently, it is widespread, found in all water basins (Danube River, Black Sea and Aegean Sea), mostly in the lowlands.

Local status: Introduced.

Entry paths in the region of Pancharevo Lake (if known): Probably through fish stocking, aquaculture or waterfowl.

Observations: Usually inhabits stagnant and slow-flowing water, at stones, gravel or mud substrate, with abundant vegetation.

***Carassius gibelio* (Bloch, 1782)**
Prussian carp



Photo: M. Todorov

Native region (Continent): Asia.

First introduction, current status and distribution in Bulgaria: First reported in the late 1940s in the Danube River and the Black Sea coastal lakes. Currently, the species is widespread, found in all water basins (Danube River, Black Sea and Aegean Sea).

Local status: Established.

Entry paths in the region of Pancharevo Lake (if known): Probably accidentally through stocking and aquaculture.

Observations: Inhabits usually still water bodies and lowland rivers, with abundant vegetation. Found in the fish ponds at the tail of Pancharevo Lake.



***Pseudorasbora parva* (Temminck & Schlegel, 1846)**
Topmouth gudgeon



Photo: M. Todorov

Native region (Continent): Eastern Asia.

First introduction, current status and distribution in Bulgaria: First reported in 1975–1976 from the Danube River and adjacent fish ponds and marshes. Currently, it is widespread, found in all water basins (Danube River, Black Sea and Aegean Sea).

Local status: Established.

Entry paths in the region of Pancharevo Lake (if known): Probably accidentally through stocking and aquaculture, and used as bait by anglers.

Observations: Found in the fish ponds at the tail of Pancharevo Lake.

***Gambusia holbrooki* Girard, 1859**
Eastern mosquitofish



Photo: M. Todorov

Native region (Continent): North America.

First introduction, current status and distribution in Bulgaria: Introduced deliberately (for mosquito control) into some Black Sea coastal lakes in 1924. Now spread in all river basins.

Local status: Established.

Entry paths in the region of Pancharevo Lake (if known): Probably accidentally through stocking and aquaculture.

Observations: Occurs in standing to slow-flowing water, mostly in vegetated ponds and lakes, backwaters and quiet pools of streams. Found in Pancharevo Lake.

***Lepomis gibbosus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**
Pumpkinseed



Photo: M. Todorov

Native region (Continent): North America.

First introduction, current status and distribution in Bulgaria: First recorded in 1920 in Svishtov Marsh along the Danube River, and since then has spread in all water basins (Danube River, Black Sea and Aegean Sea).

Local status: Established.

Entry paths in the region of Pancharevo Lake (if known): Probably aquaculture.

Observations: Prefers stagnant and slow-flowing water with abundant vegetation. Found in the fish ponds at the tail of Pancharevo Lake.

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