

First record of Racer Goby *Neogobius gymnotrachelus* (PALLAS, 1811) in the Hungarian section of the Danube

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Abstract. Two specimens of *Neogobius gymnotrachelus* were found in the sidearm system of the Szigetköz floodplain of the Danube (rkm 1837-1836) in September 2004. It was the first detection of this Ponto-Caspian goby in Hungary.

Number of recorded fish species in the Hungarian section of the Danube gained in a Ponto-Caspian species in September 16th, 2004, when two specimens of Racer Goby *Neogobius gymnotrachelus* (PALLAS, 1811) were collected in the Cikola branch-system of the Szigetköz floodplain. Racer Goby was originally distributed in brackish estuaries and fresh waters of the Black and Azov Seas, as well in the central and southern areas of the Caspian basin. It was known earlier from coastal lagoons of Romania, and in lakes and tributaries of the lower Danube, downstream from Ruse. Recently, this species has spread along the middle Danube. It was discovered in the Yugoslav section of the river (rkm 884) in 1991 (HEGEDIŠ et al., 1991) and it appeared in the Austrian section, downstream from Vienna in 1999 (ZWEIMÜLLER et al., 2000, AHNELT et al., 2001) and in the Slovak stretch, upstream from Bratislava (KAUTMAN, 2001). Its occurrence was expected in the Hungarian Danube (HARKA & SALLAI, 2004).

The first two specimens were collected using an electroshocker during a regular ichthyological survey in a large eopotamon like side arm (Danube rkm 1837-1836) of the Cikola branch-

system. Their standard length was 73 and 80 mm, and morphology corresponded to the description of the species (MILLER, 1986, PINCHUK et al., 2003). Their habitat was a shallow, slow-flowing stretch in the sidearm, where shoreline has silted up and a 200 m long and 5-10 m wide strip of aquatic vegetation has developed since the second half of the 1990s. The racer goby was found in an assemblage of the following species: *Rutilus rutilus*, *Leuciscus cephalus*, *Leuciscus idus*, *Alburnus alburnus*, *Abramis brama*, *Abramis bjoerkna*, *Vimba vimba*, *Rhodeus sericeus*, *Carassius auratus*, *Sabanejewia aurata*, *Esox lucius*, *Gasterosteus aculeatus*, *Proterorhinus marmoratus*, *Neogobius kessleri*, *N. melanostomus*.

Distribution and spread of race goby along the Middle Danube is not well-known actually. It was not caught during two extensive survey on 43 stretches (500 m long) of the Hungarian Danube in 2004 (ERŐS et al., 2005) nor in the Slovak Danube during the same year (JURAJDA et al., 2005). At the same time it has established population in Austria (WEISNER, 2005) and it may be expected in the next years to become widespread in the Hungarian Danube too.

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Figure 1. *Neogobius gymnotrachelus*, collected in the Szigetköz floodplain of the Danube

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