

## The freshwater crab (Crustacea: Decapoda: Potamidae) in the Eastern Rhodopes (Bulgaria)

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**Abstract.** Material of the genus *Potamon* is revised. According to the taxonomic conception of BRANDIS et al. (2000) the freshwater crab established in Bulgaria belongs to *P. ibericum*.

**Key words:** *Potamon*, Eastern Rhodopes, Bulgaria

In the Balkan Peninsula three species of the genus *Potamon* – *P. potamios*, *P. fluviatile* and *P. ibericum* (BRANDIS et al., 2000) are present.

The freshwater crab was recorded to the fauna of Bulgaria by BULGURKOV (1961) as *P. potamios* (Olivier, 1804), and SUBCHEV & STANIMIROVA (1988) and BECHEV (2000) as *P. fluviatilis* (Herbst, 1785).

The revision of the author's material, and a part of the specimens of Subchev made it clear that the species in Bulgaria is namely *P. ibericum* in keeping with the taxonomic conception of BRANDIS et al. (2000).

### ***Potamon (Pontipotamon) ibericum* (Bieberstein, 1808)**

*P. fluviatilis* (Herbst, 1785): SUBCHEV & STANIMIROVA, 1988; BECHEV, 2000 (Fig. 1-2).

Known in the Eastern Rhodopes from: Ivaylodgrad Dam (BECHEV, 2000: "*P. fluviatilis*"), Harmanliyska Reka River near Harmanli, and near Modren Village (BRANDIS et al., 2000).

Material examined: 1 ♂ and 2 ♀♀, Ivaylodgrad Dam, near Arda Hut, 27.8.1994, D. Bechev.

Distribution in Bulgaria. The data of BRANDIS et al. (2000) and the revision of Subchev's material show that *P. ibericum* is distributed in Bulgaria as follows: a locality in a Danube tributary (near Kozlovets Village, south of Svishtov); in the rivers of the Black Sea catchment area (near Varna and in Strandja Mountain); in the rivers Tundja, Maritsa and Arda, and their tributaries. BULGURKOV (1961) also marked a find in the Mesta River (as *P. potamios*) and SUBCHEV & STANIMIROVA (1988) - another find in a tributary



Fig. 1. *Potamon ibericum* from Ivaylodgrad Dam – first gonopod, ventral view.



Fig. 2. *Potamon ibericum* from Ivaylodgrad Dam – first gonopod, dorsal view.

of the Struma River (as *P. fluviatilis*). The materials on these finds have not been revised by the author. The specimens probably belong to *P. ibericum*. But, having in mind the distribution of the *Potamon* species, *P. (Eutelphusa) fluviatile* (Herbst, 1785) is likely to occur in southwest Bulgaria.

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## Сладководният крив рак в Източните Родопи (България)

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(Р е з ю м е)

За България сладководният крив рак е съобщаван от BULGURKOV (1961) като *Potamon potamios* (Olivier, 1804) и от SUBCHEV & STANIMIROVA (1988) и BECHEV (2000) като *P. fluviatilis* (Herbst, 1785). Ревизирането на материалите на автора и голяма част от тези на Събчев показва, че според таксономичната концепция на BRANDIS et al. (2000) установяваният в България вид е *P. ibericum*. В Югозападна България е възможно присъствието на *P. fluviatile*.