

## **Faunistic diversity of Vrachanki Balkan Nature Park**

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**Abstract.** The whole faunistic data in this issue are summarized for more realistic assessment of the number of the recent animal taxa inhabiting the region. About 2216 recent species that belong to 1217 genera and 350 families are recorded to the fauna of the Vrachanska Planina Mts. and the Vrachanki Balkan Nature Park. More than 36 species are considered as local endemics for Vrachanska Planina Mts., 20 species – as Bulgarian endemics and 34 species – as endemics for the Balkan Peninsula.

**Key words:** fauna, NW Bulgaria.

### **Introduction**

The Vrachanska Planina Mts. is situated in North-Western Bulgaria, north of the main chain of Stara Planiana Mts. The main part of the mountain is a protected area, the Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park, and also the Vrachanski Karst Reserve. More information about the geographic features is presented in Bechev & Georgiev (2016).

### **Methods**

The whole available information concerning the fauna of the region is summarized and compared from the Management plan of Nature Park “Vrachanski Balkan” (Plan) and from the publications in this issue (This issue). Based on the new data, more realistic assessment of the number of the recent animal taxa inhabiting the region was made. The exact number of the endemic species at this stage is difficult to calculate.

### **Results and Discussion**

The summarized information about known animal taxa in the research area is presented in Table 1. Based on the included new data in this issue, we can conclude that to the fauna of the Vrachanska Planina Mts. and the Nature Park Vrachanski Balkan about 2216 species that belong to 1217 genera and 350 families have been reported till now. More than 36 species are considered as local endemics for Vrachanska Planina Mts., 20 species – as Bulgarian endemics and 34 species – as endemics for the Balkan Peninsula. Most of the endemics are cave species (troglobites).

The number of species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC is: Invertebrates – 13, Amphibia – 3, Reptilia – 3, Aves – 61, Pisces – 4, Mammalia – 16 (summarized from: Natura 2000 - Standard Data Form).

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**Table 1.** Number of the recorded recent animal taxa to the region.

**Abbreviations:** VM = local endemics for Vrachanska Planina Mts., BG = Bulgarian endemics, BP = endemics for the Balkan Peninsula.

| Taxa                              | Rang     | Number according Plan |                        | Number according This issue |               | Revised total number |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
|                                   |          | Total number          | Number endemic species | Total number                | New to region |                      |
| Acanthocephala                    | families |                       |                        | 2                           |               | 2                    |
|                                   | genera   |                       |                        | 2                           |               |                      |
|                                   | species  |                       |                        | 4                           |               |                      |
| Gastropoda and Bivalvia - aquatic | families | 7                     | 2 BP                   | 7                           |               | 7                    |
|                                   | genera   | 13                    |                        | 10                          |               |                      |
|                                   | species  | 20                    |                        | 13                          |               |                      |
| Gastropoda terrestrial            | families | 28                    | 4 VM,<br>4 BG,<br>9 BP | 30                          |               | 30                   |
|                                   | genera   | 59                    |                        | 54                          |               |                      |
|                                   | species  | 90                    |                        | 90                          | 12            |                      |
| Crustacea - groundwater           | families |                       |                        | 10                          |               | 10                   |
|                                   | genera   |                       |                        | 22                          |               |                      |
|                                   | species  |                       |                        | 31                          |               |                      |
| Scorpiones                        | families | 1                     |                        | 1                           |               | 1                    |
|                                   | genera   | 1                     |                        | 1                           |               |                      |
|                                   | species  | 1                     |                        | 1                           |               |                      |
| Pseudoscorpiones                  | families | 4                     |                        |                             |               | 4                    |
|                                   | genera   | 6                     |                        |                             |               |                      |
|                                   | species  | 10                    |                        |                             |               |                      |
| Araneae                           | families | 19                    | 4 VM,<br>3 BG,<br>3 BP | 22                          |               | 22                   |
|                                   | genera   | 72                    |                        | 77                          |               |                      |
|                                   | species  | 113                   |                        | 110                         | 32            |                      |
| Myriapoda                         | families | 12                    | 2 VM,<br>3 BG,<br>3 BP |                             |               | 12                   |
|                                   | genera   | 20                    |                        |                             |               |                      |
|                                   | species  | 36                    |                        |                             |               |                      |
| Tardigrada                        | families |                       |                        | 2                           |               | 2                    |
|                                   | genera   |                       |                        | 6                           |               |                      |
|                                   | species  |                       |                        | 6                           |               |                      |
| Ephemeroptera                     | families |                       |                        | 7                           |               | 7                    |
|                                   | genera   |                       |                        | 11                          |               |                      |
|                                   | species  |                       |                        | 18                          | 12            |                      |
| Odonata                           | families |                       |                        | 7                           |               | 7                    |
|                                   | genera   |                       |                        | 8                           |               |                      |
|                                   | species  |                       |                        | 8                           |               |                      |
| Plecoptera                        | families |                       |                        | 7                           |               | 7                    |
|                                   | genera   |                       |                        | 12                          |               |                      |
|                                   | species  |                       |                        | 20                          | 3             |                      |

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|                                   |          |     |                           |     |    |                          |     |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-----|---------------------------|-----|----|--------------------------|-----|
| Blattodea                         | families |     |                           | 1   |    |                          | 1   |
|                                   | genera   |     |                           | 1   |    |                          | 1   |
|                                   | species  |     |                           | 1   |    |                          | 1   |
| Mantodea                          | families |     |                           | 1   |    |                          | 1   |
|                                   | genera   |     |                           | 1   |    |                          | 1   |
|                                   | species  |     |                           | 1   |    |                          | 1   |
| Orthoptera                        | families | 7   | 2 BG,<br>BP               | 6   | 2  | 1 BG,<br>5 BP            | 6   |
|                                   | genera   | 32  |                           | 55  | 16 |                          | 55  |
|                                   | species  | 47  |                           | 79  | 31 |                          | 79  |
| Trichoptera                       | families | 1   |                           | 7   | 7  | 1 BP                     | 7   |
|                                   | genera   | 3   |                           | 13  | 13 |                          | 13  |
|                                   | species  | 6   |                           | 21  | 21 |                          | 21  |
| Carabidae<br>(Coleoptera)         | families | 1   | 11 VM,<br>3 BG,<br>0 BP   |     |    |                          | 1   |
|                                   | genera   | 35  |                           |     |    |                          | 35  |
|                                   | species  | 96  |                           |     |    |                          | 96  |
| Scarabaeoidea<br>(Coleoptera)     | families |     |                           | 4   |    |                          | 4   |
|                                   | genera   |     |                           | 29  |    |                          | 29  |
|                                   | species  |     |                           | 64  | 45 |                          | 64  |
| Chrisomelidae<br>(Coleoptera)     | families |     |                           | 1   |    |                          | 1   |
|                                   | genera   |     |                           | 46  |    |                          | 46  |
|                                   | species  |     |                           | 154 | 82 |                          | 154 |
| Lepidoptera                       | families | 17  | 2 BP                      |     |    |                          | 17  |
|                                   | genera   | 159 |                           |     |    |                          | 159 |
|                                   | species  | 214 |                           |     |    |                          | 214 |
| Crabronidae<br>(Hymenoptera)      | families | 1   |                           |     |    |                          | 1   |
|                                   | genera   | 5   |                           |     |    |                          | 5   |
|                                   | species  | 6   |                           |     |    |                          | 6   |
| Formicidae<br>(Hymenoptera)       | families |     |                           | 1   |    |                          | 1   |
|                                   | genera   |     |                           | 13  |    |                          | 13  |
|                                   | species  |     |                           | 29  | 10 |                          | 29  |
| Sciaroidea<br>(Diptera)           | families | 6   | 3 VM,<br>2 BP             | 5   |    | 1 VM,<br>1 BP            | 5   |
|                                   | genera   | 57  |                           | 50  |    |                          | 50  |
|                                   | species  | 162 |                           | 165 | 3  |                          | 165 |
| Tabanidae<br>(Diptera)            | families | 1   |                           | 1   |    |                          | 1   |
|                                   | genera   | 6   |                           | 4   |    |                          | 4   |
|                                   | species  | 13  |                           | 13  | 3  |                          | 13  |
| Diptera                           | families | 41  | 3 VM                      |     |    |                          | 40  |
|                                   | genera   | 248 |                           |     |    |                          | 238 |
|                                   | species  | 504 |                           |     |    |                          | 507 |
| Terrestrial cave<br>invertebrates | families |     | 18 VM,<br>12 BG,<br>28 BP | 83  |    | 23 VM,<br>13 BG,<br>3 BP | 83  |
|                                   | genera   | 154 |                           | 165 |    |                          | 165 |
|                                   | species  | 217 |                           | 218 |    |                          | 218 |
| Pisces                            | families |     |                           | 2   |    |                          | 2   |
|                                   | genera   | 10  |                           | 3   |    |                          | 3   |
|                                   | species  | 11  |                           | 8   |    |                          | 8   |
| Amphibia                          | families |     |                           | 5   |    |                          | 5   |
|                                   | genera   | 6   |                           | 9   |    |                          | 9   |
|                                   | species  | 11  |                           | 11  | 3  |                          | 11  |

|              |          |      |                           |      |     |                           |      |
|--------------|----------|------|---------------------------|------|-----|---------------------------|------|
| Reptilia     | families |      |                           | 7    |     |                           | 7    |
|              | genera   | 12   |                           | 12   |     |                           | 12   |
|              | species  | 15   |                           | 16   | 5   |                           | 16   |
| Aves         | families | 40   |                           | 43   |     |                           | 43   |
|              | genera   | 100  |                           | 112  |     |                           | 112  |
|              | species  | 181  |                           | 208  | 23  |                           | 208  |
| Mammalia     | families | 13   |                           | 12   |     |                           | 13   |
|              | genera   | 38   |                           | 33   |     |                           | 38   |
|              | species  | 58   |                           | 43   |     |                           | 58   |
| Total number | families | 199  | 45 VM,<br>27 BG,<br>60 BP | 274  | 9   | 36 VM,<br>20 BG,<br>34 BP | 350  |
|              | genera   | 1036 |                           | 749  | 29  |                           | 1217 |
|              | species  | 1811 |                           | 1332 | 285 |                           | 2216 |

## References

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## **Фаунистично разнообразие на Природен парк Врачански Балкан**

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### (Резюме)

Обобщени и сравнени са наличните данни за фауната на региона от План за управление на ПП “Врачански Балкан” и тези, включени в настоящото издание. На базата на новите данни е направен опит да се представи една по-реална оценка за броя на известните досега рецентни таксони животни.

За фауната Врачанска планина и Природен парк Врачански Балкан досега са съобщени около 2216 рецентни вида, принадлежащи към около 1217 рода и 350 семейства. Повече от 36 вида се приемат за локални ендемити за Врачанска планина, 20 – за български ендемити и 34 – за ендемити за Балканския полуостров. Точният брой ендемични видове на този етап е трудно да бъде изчислен. По-голямата част от ендемитите са пещерни видове.