

## THREATENED FISHES OF THE WORLD: *Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus* Bogutskaya & Zupančič, 2003 (Cyprinidae)

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### ABSTRACT

Mostar minnow, *Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus*, is a freshwater fish endemic to the Neretva River drainage. Present data suggest that species is restricted only to wetland of the Mostarsko Blato but it is considered to be distributed more widely in the River Neretva basin. It is threatened because of the extremely limited range of distribution, river regulation and influence of the non-indigenous species. Suggested conservation actions for Mostar minnow are habitat protection and establishing of the nature reserve in the area of the Mostarsko Blato. Stocking with translocated and non-native species should be also banned.

### SYNONYM

No synonym.

### COMMON NAMES

Prikanac (BiH); Mostar minnow (Eng);

### CONSERVATION STATUS

IUCN Red list: vulnerable (Crivelli, 2006)

### IDENTIFICATION

DIII7; AII7; VII8; PI15-16; pharyngeal teeth 5-4, hooked, slightly serrated; gill rakers 8-10. Body scaleless besides lateral line scales and some scales above and below lateral line behind the head. Scales in lateral line in total 57-80, pored scales 55-77. Lateral line long, terminating on caudal peduncle. Sometimes lateral line is interrupted, usually along second half of its length (Bogutskaya and Zupančič, 2003). This species has dark brownish coloration of back and flanks with creamy belly and with dark lateral stripe from eye to caudal peduncle. Snout is blunt, markedly rounded



**Fig 1.** *Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus* 80 mm TL (photo by Dario Marić, July 2009)

with subterminal mouth. Maximum size is up to 103 mm SL (Bogutskaya and Zupančič, 2003; Kattelat and Freyhof, 2007; Markotić, 2013).

### DISTRIBUTION

Mostar minnow (Fig 1) is an endemic freshwater fish distributed in the Mostarsko Blato in the Neretva drainage in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also, it is considered to be distributed more widely in the River Neretva basin (Bogutskaya and Zupančič, 2003).

## ABUNDANCE

Locally abundant (Šanda et al. 2009).

## HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

*Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus* inhabits streams or shallow channels with little current and clean water (Crivelli, 2006; Bogutskaya and Zupančič, 2003). During unfavorable periods, it lives in subterranean waters (Markotić et al., 2013; Markotić, 2013).

This species is omnivorous and mostly feeds on water invertebrates (Insecta, Gastropoda) and herbal material (Markotić, 2013).

## REPRODUCTION

It has extended its period of spawning which lasts from January to May when water temperature is between 9.6-23.9°C. During spawning season, females lay around 2500 eggs in more than one portion. Its period of spawning is in accordance with flooding of the Mostarsko Blato (Markotić, 2013).

## THREATS

Major threats for *P. pseudalepidotus* are its very limited area of distribution, river regulation and influence of the non-indigenous species.

## CONSERVATION ACTION

No actions.

## CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation for conservation of this species is establishment of nature reserve in the area of the Mostarsko Blato, as well as bans on watercourse regulation and restriction of introductions and control of non-indigenous fish species. Also, precise area of distribution of Mostar minnow should be defined.

## REMARKS

Some authors considered this fish from the Mostarsko Blato as *Phoxinellus alepidotus* because of morphological similarity between *P. alepidotus* and *P. pseudalepidotus* (Heckel and Kner, 1858; Seeley, 1886 (as *Paraphoxinus*

*alepidotus*); Vuković and Ivanović, 1971 (as *Paraphoxinus alepidotus*); Kottelat, 1997). Also, Zupančič and Bogutskaya (2002) found undescribed species close to *P. alepidotus* which occurs in the Mostarsko Blato. *P. pseudalepidotus* is distinguished from *P. alepidotus* by few additional scales above and below lateral line, a longer lateral line (*P. pseudalepidotus* usually 55-77; *P. alepidotus* usually 11-42) and smaller scales in lateral line (Bogutskaya and Zupančič, 2003).

## Sažetak

### UGROŽENE VRSTE RIBA U SVIJETU: *Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus* Bogutskaya & Zupančič, 2003 (Cyprinidae)

Prikanac, *Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus*, je slatkovodna vrsta ribe endemična za slijev rijeke Neretve. Dostupni podaci govore da joj je rasprostranjenost ograničena na Mostarsko blato iako se smatra da naseljava i šire područje rijeke Neretve. Glavni uzroci ugroženosti ove vrste su ograničeno područje rasprostranjenosti, regulacija vodotoka i unos alohtonih vrsta. Predložene mjere zaštite za ovu vrstu su zaštita staništa i osnivanje rezervata prirode na području Mostarskog blata, kao i zabrana regulacije i pregradnje vodotoka te zabrana unosa alohtonih vrsta u vode koje naseljava ova vrsta.

**Ključne riječi:** *Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus*, Cyprinidae, Neretvanski slijev, očuvanje

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