

On the gastropods of Manastirski Heights, SE Bulgaria (Mollusca: Gastropoda)

DILIAN GEORGIEV^{1, 2}

¹Department of General Animal Husbandry, Section Ecology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Trakia University – Stara Zagora, 6000 Stara Zagora, Bulgaria, dilyan.georgiev@trakia-uni.bg

²Department of Ecology and Environmental Conservation, Faculty of Biology, Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, 24 Tzar Assen Str., 4000 Plovdiv, Bulgaria, diliangeorgiev@uni-plovdiv.bg

Abstract. This short note reports on 13 species of non-marine snails registered at the Manastirski Heights, SE Bulgaria. From them 12 were terrestrial and one – freshwater. All records were new to this geographical area.

Key words: snails, species, distribution.

Introduction

The Manastirski Heights are a small hilly region in southeastern Bulgaria, surrounded by agricultural lands. They are composed of gabbro and crystalline schists. North of the heights, near the village of Krumovo, there is an iron ore deposit (Michev *et al.* 1980). To the north are the Sveti Iliyski Heights, and to the south lies Sakar Mountains, where studies on the species composition of mollusks have previously been conducted (Georgiev 2006, Georgiev & Dedov 2025). Until now, no information was available on the mollusk fauna of the Manastirski Heights. This short note presents the first records for the region.

Materials and Methods

The material was collected sporadically between 2022 and 2026 from the areas of Golyam Manastir, General Toshevo and Miladinovtsi villages. Mollusks were collected using direct visual search in suitable microhabitats and by sifting soil and detritus samples through a series of sieves with various mesh sizes. Species identification was carried out using the author's reference collection.

Results and Discussion

A total of 13 species were registered:

Lymnaeidae Rafinesque, 1815

***Galba truncatula* (O. F. Müller, 1774):** 18.10.2026, near Miladinovtsi vill., grassy area, in a small ditch (canal), 42°15'09.5"N/26°20'23.7"E, 200 m a. s. l.

Vertiginidae Fitzinger, 1833

***Truncatellina cylindrica* (Férussac, 1807):** 01.05.2024, General Toshevo vill., grasses near a road and abandoned yard, from detritus and soil, 42°13'32.9"N/26°17'57.7"E, 241 m a. s. l.

Valloniidae E. S. Morse, 1864

***Vallonia costata* (O. F. Müller, 1774):** 01.05.2024, General Toshevo vill., grasses near a road and abandoned yard, from detritus and soil, 42°13'32.9"N/26°17'57.7"E, 241 m a. s. l.

Clausiliidae J. E. Gray, 1855

***Bulgarica denticulata thessalonica* (Rossmässler, 1839):** 06.05.2022, W of Golyam Manastir vill., *Quercus* sp. forest, under tiles on the ground (dung area), 42°12'45.0"N/26°18'56.0"E, 285 m a. s. l.

Oxychilidae Hesse, 1927 (1879)

***Mediterranea inopinata* (Uličný, 1887):** 01.05.2024, General Toshevo vill., grasses near a road and abandoned yard, from detritus and soil, 42°13'32.9"N/26°17'57.7"E, 241 m a. s. l.

***Morlina glabra* (Rossmässler, 1835):** 18.10.2026, S of Miladinovtsi vill., *Quercus* forest, near water station, under concrete pieces, 42°14'48.6"N/26°20'23.1"E, 231 m a. s. l.

Helicodontidae Kobelt, 1904

***Lindholmiola girva* (Frivaldsky, 1835):** 06.05.2022, W of Golyam Manastir vill., *Quercus* sp. forest, under tiles on the ground (dung area), 42°12'45.0"N/26°18'56.0"E, 285 m a. s. l.; 18.10.2026, S of Miladinovtsi vill., *Quercus* forest, near water station, under concrete pieces, 42°14'48.6"N/26°20'23.1"E, 231 m a. s. l.

Limacidae Batsch, 1789

***Limax graecus* Simroth, 1889:** 18.10.2026, S of Miladinovtsi vill., *Quercus* forest, near water station, under concrete pieces, 42°14'48.6"N/26°20'23.1"E, 231 m a. s. l.

Agriolimacidae H. Wagner, 1935

***Deroceras sturanyi* (Simroth, 1894):** 13.12.2025, S of Krumovo vill., bushes near road and agricultural lands, among plastic remains, 42°15'09.5"N/26°23'11.3"E, 151 m a. s. l.

***Deroceras turcicum* (Simroth, 1894):** 13.12.2025, S of Krumovo vill., bushes near road and agricultural lands, among plastic remains, 42°15'09.5"N/26°23'11.3"E, 151 m a. s. l.

Hygromiidae Tryon, 1866

***Monacha cartusiana* (O. F. Müller, 1774) – complex:** 01.05.2024, General Toshevo vill., grasses near a road and abandoned yard, 42°13'32.9"N/26°17'57.7", 241 m a. s. l.; 01.05.2024, S of General Toshevo vill., meadows near mixed forest, 42°13'14.7"N/26°18'47.2"E, 232 m a. s. l.; 13.12.2025, S of Krumovo vill., bushes near road and agricultural lands, among plastic remains, 42°15'09.5"N/26°23'11.3"E, 151 m a. s. l.; 18.10.2026, Miladinovtsi vill., bush area, under a stone, 42°15'13.8"N/26°20'23.7"E, 199 m a. s. l.

Helicidae Rafinesque, 1815

***Caucasotachea vindobonensis* (C. Pfeiffer, 1828):** 18.10.2026, Miladinovtsi vill., bush area, under a dead bark of *Populus* sp., on the ground, 42°15'13.8"N/26°20'23.7"E, 199 m a. s. l.

***Helix lucorum* Linnaeus, 1758:** 01.05.2024, General Toshevo vill., grasses near a road and abandoned yard, 42°13'32.9"N/26°17'57.7"E, 241 m a. s. l.; 18.10.2026, Miladinovtsi vill., bush area, 42°15'13.4"N/26°20'22.7"E, 200 m a. s. l.; 18.10.2026, S of Miladinovtsi vill., *Quercus* forest, near water station, 42°14'48.6"N/26°20'23.1"E, 231 m a. s. l.

Although snails were actively searched for during three field days, the study revealed low species diversity. This is mainly due to the absence of limestone substrates. Future investigations should focus on searching for species around anthropogenic sources of calcium, such as concrete structures and similar features in populated areas.

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