

THREATENED FISHES OF THE WORLD: *Telestes turskyi* (Heckel, 1843) (Cyprinidae)

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ABSTRACT

Tursky dace, *Telestes turskyi*, is a freshwater species endemic to the Adriatic drainage. This species is found only in two rivers in Croatia, the River Krka and River Čikola, and is protected by Croatian law. Major threats for this species are extremely limited distribution, river regulation, water extraction and pollution. Suggested conservation actions for this species are: habitat protection, bans on regulation and alteration of watercourse and restriction of introduction of alien fish species.

SYNONYM

Leuciscus turskyi (Heckel, 1843); *Squalius turskyi* Heckel, 1843

COMMON NAMES

Turski klen (Cro); Tursky dace, Čikola riffle dace (Eng)

CONSERVATION STATUS

IUCN Red list: critically endangered (Crivelli, 2006)

Croatia: critically endangered (Mrakovčić et al., 2006)

IDENTIFICATION

DIII7-8; AIII8; VII7; PI14-16; 71 – 79 total lateral line scales. Pharyngeal teeth 2.5 – 5.2, gill rakers 8 – 9, depth of caudal peduncle 2.0 – 2.2 times its length. Dorsal fin starts just posterior to the body midpoint (Fig 1). In preserved individuals there is conspicuous black medilateral stripe. Maximum size is up to 250 mm TL but usually individuals are up to 160 mm TL (Seeley, 1886; Vuković and Ivanović, 1971; Mrakovčić, 2006; Kottelat and Freyhof, 2007).



Fig 1. *Telestes turskyi* 180 mm TL (photo by Perica Mustafić, May 2011)

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the Adriatic drainage. This species has extremely limited distribution and is found only in two rivers in Croatia, the River Čikola and River Krka. *Telestes turskyi* has extant of occurrence <100 km² and area of occupancy <10 km² (Mrakovčić et al., 2006; Crivelli, 2006, Kottelat and Freyhof, 2007).

ABUNDANCE

According to Vuković and Ivanović (1971), this species was formerly abundant in the River Čikola. In recent years, popu-

lation has been seriously reduced (Crivelli, 2006; Mrakovčić et al., 2006). Until 2002, *Telestes turskyi* was listed as extinct (Crivelli, 2006).

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Telestes turskyi inhabits shallow, still and slow flowing waters. This species lives in schools which possibly enter subterranean waters during winter or droughts (Mrakovčić et al., 2006; Kottelat and Freyhof, 2007). It feeds on water invertebrates (Mrakovčić et al., 2006). There is little or no data on the ecology of this species.

REPRODUCTION

No data.

THREATS

Telestes turskyi is threatened by its extremely limited distribution (River Krka drainage), river regulation, water extraction and pollution (Crivelli, 2006; Mrakovčić et al., 2006).

CONSERVATION ACTION

This species is protected in Croatia. It is listed in Appendix III of the Bern Convention.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Habitat protection (establishment of ichthyological reserve on the River Krka), bans on regulation and alteration of watercourse, restriction of introductions and control of alien fish species.

REMARKS

According to some authors, *Telestes turskyi* was also distributed in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the karstic streams of Livanjsko polje and Lake Buško blato (Vuković and Ivanović, 1971 (as *Leuciscus turskyi tenellus*); Mikavica, 1988; Maitland, 2000; Mrakovčić et al., 2006). Later, Kottelat and Freyhof (2007) distinguished the species from Bosnia and Herzegovina as *Squalius tenellus*.

UGROŽENE VRSTE RIBA U SVIJETU: *Telestes turskyi* (Heckel, 1843) (Cyprinidae)

Sažetak

Turski klen, *Telestes turskyi*, je slatkovodna riba endemična za Jadranski slijev. Živi samo u dvije rijeke u Hrvatskoj, rijeci Krki i rijeci Čikoli te je zakonom zaštićena. Glavni uzroci ugroženosti ove vrste su ograničeno područje rasprostranjenosti, regulacije riječnog toka i onečišćenje vode. Za očuvanje ove vrste predlaže se zaštita staništa te zabrana regulacije i promjene vodotoka kao i zabrana unosa alohtonih vrsta.

Cljučne riječi: *Telestes turskyi*, Cyprinidae, Jadranski slijev, očuvanje

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