

Bonn zoological Bulletin 70 (2): 273–279 2021 · Mabrouki Y. et al. https://doi.org/10.20363/BZB-2021.70.2.273

Research article

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:69B780CD-F787-4729-8A40-5D1433FCA15A

Further records of freshwater Gastropods (Mollusca: Hydrobiidae, Lymnaeidae, Planorbidae) from Morocco

Youness Mabrouki^{1, *}, Abdelkhaleq Fouzi Taybi² & Peter Glöer³

¹ Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Faculty of Sciences Dhar El Mehraz, Biotechnology, Conservation and Valorisation of Natural Resources laboratory, Fez, Morocco ² Université Mohammed Premier, Faculté Pluridisciplinaire de Nador, Équipe de Recherche en Biologie et Biotechnologie Appliquées. Morocco ³ Schulstr. 3, D-25491 Hetlingen, Germany *Corresponding author: Email: younes_mab@hotmail.fr

¹urn:lsid:zoobank.org:author:9FE7D112-2607-4855-ABF7-9BF0BA38B8C8 ²urn:lsid:zoobank.org:author:358C2481-FAD9-4524-AEFC-E18008EE04AC ²urn:lsid:zoobank.org:author:8CB6BA7C-D04E-4586-BA1D-72FAFF54C4C9

Abstract. Galba oblonga (Puton, 1847), Stagnicola fuscus (Pfeiffer, 1821) and Ancylus striatus Quoy & Gaimard, 1834 are reported for the first time in North Africa, while Mercuria globulina (Letourneux & Bourguignat, 1887) is new to Morocco. In addition, we provide new distributional data on the two Moroccan endemic and recently described species Aghbalia aghbalensis Glöer, Mabrouki & Taybi, 2020 and Mercuria bakeri Glöer, Boeters & Walther, 2015 known previously from the type localities only, which is a key element in promoting their conservation.

Key words. New records, North Africa, additional information, endemic species.

INTRODUCTION

Thanks to its geographical position, Morocco is one of the most interesting biogeographical regions in the Western Mediterranean. It represents a contact area between Europe and Africa and a compulsory passage for much of the fauna between the Palaearctic and Afrotropical region and between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. Within the Maghreb, Morocco possesses the most extensive lotic system (FAO 2003). The precipitation that falls in the high mountain ranges of the Rif, Middle Atlas, High Atlas and Anti-Atlas feeds rivers generally flowing north-eastern to the Mediterranean, north-westward to the Atlantic or south-eastward towards the Sahara. These ecosystems provide a variety of ecological habitats, promoting great biodiversity while at the same time offering significant socioeconomic benefits (Chillasse et al. 2001; Taybi et al. 2020a).

Freshwater molluscs play a vital role in freshwater ecosystems, as they are essential to the maintenance and balance of aquatic biota, primarily through their control of water quality and nutrient balance through filter-feeding and algal-grazing and, to a lesser degree, as a food source for predators including a number of species of vertebrates (Oscoz et al. 2014; Tachet et al. 2020). There are an estimated 7,000 valid species around the world and about 10,000 more await description (Darwall et al. 2005). Unfortunately, these organisms are one of the most threatened freshwater taxa (Kay 1995).

Freshwater molluscs show a high degree of regional endemism, with about 80% of species endemic to the North African region (García et al. 2010), which gives them a privileged place for taxonomical and ecological studies. Previously, only 52 species of freshwater molluscs were known with certainty from Morocco (Dakki et al. 1997). However, this list was not complete and many new species were added recently, including species new to science (Boulaassafer et al. 2018, 2020; Ghamizi 2020; Glöer et al. 2020a, b; Mabrouki et al. 2020a, 2021). In order to increase knowledge on the freshwater Malacofauna of Morocco, different field expeditions have been conducted since 2014 through the northern part of the country, including its great natural barriers such as the Moulouya River basin and the Middle Atlas massif.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In order to promote knowledge on the freshwater molluscs of Morocco, several field expeditions have been conducted since 2014 in the northern part of the country (Fig. 1), with a focus on the Middle Atlas and the Moulouya River basin. More than 100 localities have been investigated and most of these sampling sites were visit-



Fig. 1. Distribution range of the recorded species in Morocco (new records black, old records white).

ed at least three times (e.g., Taybi et al. 2017; Mabrouki et al. 2020b for more details on the localities). The samples of benthic fauna including molluscs were collected using kick nets or entomological forceps or by hand. The dissections and measurements of the genital organs and the shells were carried out using a stereo microscope (ZEISS); the photographs were made with a digital camera system (Leica R8). The map was made using ArcGIS software. Voucher specimens were deposited in the collections of the authors. Identifications were made using the identification key of Glöer (2019).

RESULTS

Galba oblonga, Stagnicola fuscus and Ancylus striatus are new to North Africa; Mercuria globulina is reported for the first time in Morocco. In addition, the two recently described Moroccan endemic species Aghbalia aghbalensis and Mercuria bakeri are reported for the first time outside their type localities. Family Hydrobiidae Stimpson, 1865

Genus Aghbalia Glöer, Mabrouki & Taybi, 2020

Aghbalia aghbalensis Glöer, Mabrouki & Taybi, 2020 (Fig. 2)

Distribution. This recently described Moroccan endemic was known only from its type localities Aghbal and Tiffert springs (Glöer et al. 2020a). We record it for the first time in the springs of Ain Sfa and Guercif, in addition to the potamal section of Moulouya River at a place named Safsaf (Fig. 1), increasing considerably records of its distribution area, which is a key element in promoting its conservation.

Sampling site. Guercif (07/09/2020) 33°57'33" N, 3°30'52.8" W; Aval Safsaf (19/06/2019) 34°54'27.53" N, 2°38'8.86" W; Ain Sfa (16/06/2019) 34°45'12"N 2°8'36" W.

Habitat. The species was known to occur in rheocrenous springs only. We document its presence in a big river (Fig. 8). However, the section of the Moulouya where the species was found is supplied by various freshwater springs, which may explain its presence in this habitat.

Associated species. *Theodoxus* sp.; *Galba truncatula* (Müller, 1774); *Melanopsis praemorsa* (Linnaeus, 1758).



Figs 2–7. Shells of the recorded species in Morocco. 2. Aghbalia aghbalensis. 3. Mercuria bakeri. 4. M. globulina. 5. Galba oblonga. 6. Stagnicola fuscus. 7. Ancylus striatus.

Genus Mercuria Boeters, 1971

Mercuria bakeri Glöer, Boeters & Walther, 2015 (Fig. 3)

Distribution. The Moroccan endemic species was known only from its type locality at the Tingitane Peninsula in northwestern Morocco (Glöer et al. 2015). We record it for the first time in the Oriental Region of the country at different localities (Fig. 1), increasing therefore its distribution range.

Sampling sites. Oued Messoussate (10/06/2020) 35°04'02.8" N, 2°54'11.6" W; Bouareg plain well 1 (28/06/2020) 35°06'12.3" N, 2°50'25.8" W; Bouareg well 2 (28/06/2020) 35°06'25.2" N, 2°50'14.8" W; La'azib (10/07/2020) 35°03'14.8" N, 2°57'27.9" W; Aroui (14/07/2020) 35°01'07.2" N, 2°59'37.9" W.

Habitat. Previously, *M. bakeri* was known inhabiting only a swampy area around a small artificial pond in the Tingitane Peninsula. During the study period, the species was collected from a watercourse and spring of low al-

titude, it was also sampled from wells, which is a new feature registered for the species (e.g., Fig. 9).

Associated species. *Physella acuta* (Draparnaud, 1805).

Mercuria globulina (Letourneux & Bourguignat, 1887) (Fig. 4)

Distribution. This Maghrebian species was previously known from Algeria and Tunisia only, where it was restricted to the central and eastern parts of the Tell (Glöer 2019; Glöer et al. 2010). We record it for the first time in Morocco from the Oriental Region. During the sampling period, the species was collected at a place named Leghriba, belonging to the Selouane River basin (Fig. 1).

Sampling site. Leghriba (23/07/2020) 35°04'25.3" N, 2°58'42.1" W.

Habitat. This species usually occupies springs and small rivers. In Morocco, it was collected from a single

well, which is also a new feature documented for the species.

Family Lymnaeidae Lamarck, 1799

Galba oblonga (Puton, 1847) (Fig. 5)

Distribution. Whether this taxon is a good species, as proposed by Vinarski & Kantor (2016: 314), is unclear. Though the type locality of *G. oblonga* is in France, it is listed in the West European literature as a form of *G. truncatula* (Glöer 2019: 219), or as a good species (see WORMS MolluscaBase 2019). We collected only one empty shell so the anatomy as well as the molecular genetic could not be studied to solve the taxonomic problem. We list this taxon here to direct attention to it for future investigations. In Morocco, *G. oblonga* was collected at Selouane (Fig. 1).

Sampling site. Saguia Selouane (21/08/20) 35°04'36.9" N, 2°55'23.9" W.

Habitat. In the study area, it was collected from an irrigation canal system, which routes the waters of the Moulouya River through the Ouled Settout reservoir (Fig. 10).

Associated species. *Stagnicola fuscus* (Pfeiffer, 1821); *Physella acuta; Melanopsis praemorsa.*

Stagnicola fuscus (Pfeiffer, 1821) (Fig. 6)

Distribution. The full range of this species is not known, but is likely to be found throughout Western Europe (Glöer 2019). We report it here for the first time in Morocco and North Africa. It was collected at Selouane (Fig. 1), which is the new confirmed southern limit of its distribution range in the Palearctic. The species can be identified by the short phallotheca and the two prostate folds by which it is separated from all other Palaearctic *Stagnicola* spp.

Stagnicola fuscus is one of five European species of the *Stagnicola palustris* (Müller, 1774) species complex (Jackiewicz 1993). *Stagnicola palustris* was the only known species of the genus occurring in Morocco, therefore, its distribution in the country and surrounding area must be re-examined, since identification was formerly based probably on the shells only.

Sampling site. Saguia Selouane (21/08/20) 35°04'36.9" N, 2°55'23.9" W.

Habitat. This species prefers the mountainous regions. It frequents the standing waters or hydrosystems with a very low flow, often among the algae and macrophytes; it can also colonize artificial pipes and semi-temporary pools as in the study area, where it was found in an irrigation canal system supplied by Ouled Settout reservoir (Fig. 10).

Associated species. Galba oblonga; Physella acuta; Melanopsis praemorsa.

Family Planorbidae Rafinesque, 1815

Ancylus striatus Quoy & Gaimard, 1834 (Fig. 7)

Distribution. Previously, the genus *Ancylus* Müller, 1774 was represented by only *A. fluviatilis* (Müller, 1774) in Morocco, where it is supposed to be widely distributed (Taybi et al. 2017). However, since we record for the first time *A. striatus* in Morocco and North Africa, the status and range distribution of *A. fluviatilis* should be re-examined. *Ancylus striatus* was described initially from the Canary Islands (Quoy & Gaimard 1834), and it was recorded later from the Azores Island and the northeastern Iberian Peninsula (Pfenninger at al. 2003; GBIF 2019). During the sampling period, the species was collected at Krouchen and Guercif, corresponding to the oriental slope of the Middle Atlas Massif, which is part of the Moulouya River Bassin (Fig. 1).

Sampling site. Krouchen (13/06/2014) 32°44'49.6" N, 5°10'17" W; Guercif (07/09/2020) 33°57'35.8" N, 3°30'40.4" W.

Habitat. This species is rheophilous, preferring moderate to fast-flowing, well-oxygenized rivers and streams (Fig. 11), usually on solid substrate and rocky bottoms.

Remark. Pfenninger et al. (2003: 2742) stated that the *Ancylus* sp. (clade 3) found in the Canary islands and Morocco as well could be *Ancylus striatus*, while Albrecht et al. (2006, Appendix I) thought it could be *Ancylus pileolus* Férrussac, 1822, mentioned by Hubendick (1972: 110), who listed *A. striatus* and *A. pileolus* (from Scio Island) both as synonyms of *A. fluviatilis. A. striatus* and *A. pileolus* are both listed as accepted species by WORMS (2019). This problem cannot be solved here, however, it is possible to understand which species is meant since we refer to the identification key of Glöer (2019) where *A. striatus* has been described and depicted.

Associated species. Anisus sp; Galba truncatula; Physella acuta; Aghbalia aghbalensis; Melanopsis praemorsa.

DISCUSSION

High-quality data on species identity and distribution are a good tool for biodiversity management and conservation. It allows biologists and managers to come up with meaningful action steps and make wise decisions to achieve biodiversity protection (Guralnick et al. 2007; Hortal et al. 2007). Combining these data with various environmental predictors and different parameterisation techniques, it is possible to make predictions about the distribution of species, especially of endemic ones (Millan et al. 2014).

The inventory list of the freshwater mollusc fauna of Morocco is certainly still incomplete. Unfortunately, due to the great pressure on continental aquatic ecosystems,



Figs 8–11. 8. Big section of the Moulouya River. 9. Typical well in the study area. 10. View of Ouled Settout reservoir. 11. Watercourse from the Middle Atlas.

many species will probably have disappeared before being recorded or even described. Indeed, as in most of the Maghrebian territory, the regional aquatic ecosystems are increasingly threatened by human activities, through water abstraction, habitat loss and modification, industrial effluents, domestic sewage and agricultural runoff including fertilisers, pesticides and drainage of water (Bensaad et al. 2017; Mabrouki et al. 2017; Taybi et al. 2016, 2020b). Even worse, alien invasive species, potentially able to change the current biotic interactions in benthic communities, have been recorded recently from the hydro-systems of Morocco (Mabrouki et al. 2019a, b, c, 2020c; Taybi et al.2020c, d, e), including molluscs, such as the Asian clam Corbicula fluminea (Müller 1774) and the New Zealand mudsnail Potamopyrgus antipodarum (Gray, 1843) (Taybi et al. 2017; Taybi et al. 2021). These invasive species could be a serious problem for the native aquatic biodiversity. Therefore, monitoring the presence and distribution of species, as well as studies improving their biological and ecological knowledge, are of crucial concern in promoting the conservation of the Moroccan freshwater biodiversity.

Acknowledgements. We cordially thank the editor and reviewers, whose helpful and sincere comments have improved the manuscript.

REFERENCES

- Albrecht C, Trajanovski S, Kuhn K, Streit,B. Wilke T (2006). Rapid evolution of an ancient lake species flock: freshwater limpets (Gastropoda: Ancylidae) in the Balkan lake Ohrid. Organisms, Diversity and Evolution 6: 294–307
- Bensaad H, Mabrouki Y, Taybi AF, Chafi A (2017) Assessment of wastewater discharges from Taourirt City on the water quality of the Oued Za (Eastern Morocco). Journal of Materials and Environmental Science 8: 2365–2371
- Boulaassafer K, Ghamizi M, Machordom A, Delicado D (2020) Phylogenetic relationships within *Pseudamnicola* Paulucci, 1878 (Caenogastropoda: Truncatelloidea) indicate two independent dispersal events from different continents to the Balearic Islands. Systematics and Biodiversity, 18 (4): 396– 416
- Boulaassafer K, Ghamizi M. Delicado D (2018) The genus Mercuria Boeters, 1971 in Morocco: first molecular phylogeny of the genus and description of two new species (Caenogastropoda, Truncatelloidea, Hydrobiidae). ZooKeys 782: 95–128

- Chillasse L, Dakki, M, Abbassi M (2001) Valeurs et fonctions écologiques des Zones humides du Moyen Atlas (Maroc). Humedales Mediterráneos 1: 139–146
- Dakki M, Himmi O, Qninba A, Benhoussa A, El Alami El Moutaouakil M (1997) Étude Nationale sur la Biodiversité: Faune aquatique continentale. Rapport PNUE & Ministère de l'Environnement. Morocco
- Darwall W, Smith K, Lowe T, Vié J-C (2005) The Status and Distribution of Freshwater Biodiversity in Eastern Africa. IUCN SSC Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment Programme. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. viii + 36 pp.
- FAO (2003) Review of world water resources by country. Water reports. Online at http://www.fao.org/3/Y4473E/Y4473E00. htm [last accessed 25 June 2021]
- García N, Cuttelod A, Abdul Malak D (2010) The Status and Distribution of Freshwater Biodiversity in Northern Africa. Gland, Switzerland, Cambridge, UK, and Malaga, Spain: IUCN 2010. xiii+141 pp.
- GBIF (2019) *Ancylus striatus* Quoy & Gaimard, 1834 GBIF Backbone Taxonomy. Checklist online at https://doi. org/10.15468/39omei [last accessed 25 June 2021]
- Ghamizi M (2020) New stygobiont genus and new species (Gastropoda, Hydrobiidae) from the Rif (Morocco). Ecologica Montenegrina 31: 50–56
- Glöer P, Boeters HD, Walther F (2015) Species of the genus Mercuria Boeters, 1971 (Caenogastropoda: Truncatelloidea: Hydrobiidae) from the European Mediterranean Region, Morocco and Madeira, with descriptions of new species. Folia Malacologica 23 (4): 279–291
- Glöer P (2019) The freshwater gastropods of the West Palaearctic Volume I Fresh- and brackish waters except spring and subterranean snails. Identification Key, Anatomy, Ecology, Distribution. Hetlingen. Germany
- Glöer P, Bouzid S. Boeters HD (2010) Revision of the genera *Pseudamnicola* Paulucci 1878 and *Mercuria* Boeters 1971 from Algeria with particular emphasis on museum collections (Gastropoda: Prosobranchia: Hydrobiidae). Archiv für Molluskenkunde 139 (1): 1–22
- Glöer P, Mabrouki Y, Taybi AF (2020a) A new genus and two new species (Gastropoda, Hydrobiidae) from Morocco. Ecologica Montenegrina 28: 1–6
- Glöer P, Mabrouki Y, Taybi AF (2020b) Two new valvatoid genera (Gastropoda, Hydrobiidae) from Morocco. Ecologica Montenegrina 30: 124–128
- Guralnick RP et al. (2007) Towards a collaborative, global infrastructure for biodiversity assessment. Ecological Letters 10: 663–672
- Hortal J, Lobo JM, Jiménez-Valverde A (2007) Limitations of biodiversity databases: case study on seed-plant diversity in Tenerife, Canary Islands. Conservation Biology 21: 853–863
- Hubendick B. (1972): The European freshwater limpets (Ancylidae and Acroloxidae). Inf. Soc. belge Malac., Ser. 1 (8/9): 109–128
- Jackiewicz M (1993) Phylogeny and Relationships within the European Species of the Family Lymnaeidae. Folia Malacologica 5: 61–95
- Kay EA (1995) The conservation biology of molluses. Including a status report on molluscan diversity. In: Proceedings of a symposium held at the 9th International Malacological Congress. Edinburgh, Scotland, 1986. IUCN – The World Conservation Union, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK
- Mabrouki Y, Taybi AF, Berrahou A (2017) L'évolution spatio-temporelle de la qualité des eaux courantes de l'Oued

Melloulou (Maroc). Revue Des Sciences De L'Eau 30 (3): 213–225

- Mabrouki Y, Taybi AF, Skalli A, Sánchez-Vialas A (2019a) Amphibians of the oriental region and the moulouya river basin of Morocco: Distribution and conservation notes. Basic and Applied Herpetology 33: 19–32
- Mabrouki Y, Ben Ahmed R, Taybi AF, Rueda J (2019b) Annotated checklist of the leech (Annelida: Hirudinida) species of the Moulouya river basin, Morocco with several new distribution records and an historical overview. African Zoology 54: 199–214
- Mabrouki Y, Taybi, AF, El Alami M, Berrahou A (2019c) Biotypology of stream macroinvertebrates from North African and semi arid catchment: Oued Za (Morocco). Knowledge and Management of Aquatic Ecosystems 420: 17
- Mabrouki Y, Taybi AF, Glöer P (2020a) New additions to gastropod fauna (Gastropoda: Hydrobiidae, Lymnaeidae) of Morocco. Ecologica Montenegrina 31: 40-44
- Mabrouki Y, Taybi AF, El Alami M, Wiggers R, Berrahou A (2020b) New data on fauna of caddisflies (Insecta: Trichoptera) from northeastern Morocco with notes on chorology. Aquatic Insects 41 (4): 356–390
- Mabrouki Y, Taybi AF, Bahhou J, Doadrio I (2020c) The first record of the swordtail *Xiphophorus hellerii* Heckel, 1848 (Poeciliidae, Actinopterygii) established in the wild from Morocco. Journal of Applied Ichthyology. 36 (6): 795-800.
- Mabrouki Y, Taybi AF, Glöer P (2021) Two new species of the genera *Islamia* and *Mercuria* (Gastropoda, Hydrobiidae) from Morocco. Ecologica Montenegrina 39: 76–80
- Millan A, Sanchez–Fernandez D, Abellan P, Picazo F, Carbonell JA, Lobo JM, Ribera I (2014) Atlas de los Coleopteros Acuaticos de Espana Peninsular. MAGRAMA. Madrid.
- MolluscaBase (2019) (WORMS). World Register of Marine Species. Online at http://www.molluscabase.org [last accessed 25 June 2021]
- Oscoz J, Galicia D, Miranda R (2011) Identification Guide of Freshwater Macroinvertebrates of Spain. Springer Science & Business Media, Germany
- Pfenninger M, Staubach S, Albrecht C, Streit B, Schwenk K (2003) Ecological and morphological differentiation among cryptic evolutionary lineages in freshwater limpets of the nominal form-group *Ancylus fluviatilis* (O.F. Müller, 1774). Molecular Ecology 12: 2731–2745
- Tachet H, Richoux P, Bournaud M, Usseglio-Polatera P (2010) Invertébrés d'eau douce. Systématique, Biologie, Ecologie. CNRS Editions, Paris
- Taybi AF, Mabrouki Y, Berrahou A, Chaabane K (2016) Évolution spatiotemporelle des paramètres physico-chimiques de la Moulouya. Journal of Materials and Environmental Science 7 (1): 272–284
- Taybi AF, Mabrouki Y, Ghamizi M, Berrahou A (2017) The freshwater malacological composition of Moulouya's watershed and Oriental Morocco. Journal of Materials and Environmental Science 8 (4): 1401–1416
- Taybi AF, Mabrouki Y, Berrahou A, Dakki A, Millán A (2020a) Longitudinal distribution of macroinvertebrate in a very wet North African basin: Oued Melloulou (Morocco). International Journal of Limnology 56 (17): 1–11 https://doi. org/10.1051/limn/2020016
- Taybi AF, Mabrouki Y, Legssyer B, Berrahou A (2020b) Spatiotemporal typology of the physico-chemical parameters of a large North African River: The Moulouya and its main tributaries (Morocco). African Journal of Aquatic Sciences 45 (4): 1–11

- Taybi AF, Mabrouki Y, Chavanon G, Millán A (2020c) The alien boatman *Trichocorixa verticalis verticalis* (Hemiptera: Corixidae) strongly increases its presence in Morocco. Limnetica 39 (1): 49–59
- Taybi AF, Mabrouki Y (2020d) The American blue crab *Callinectes sapidus* Rathbun, 1896 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Portunidae) is rapidly expanding through the Mediterranean coast of Morocco. Thalassas 36 (2): 1–5. https://doi.org/10.1007/s41208-020-00204-0
- Taybi AF, Mabrouki Y, Doadrio I (2020e) The occurrence, distribution and biology of invasive fish species in fresh and

brackish water bodies of NE Morocco. Arxius de Miscellània Zoològica 18: 59–73

- Taybi AF, Mabrouki Y, Glöer P (2021) First record of the New Zealand mudsnail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* (J.E.Gray, 1843) (Tateidae, Mollusca) in Africa. Graellsia 77 (2) (in press).
- Vinarski MV, Kantor YI (2016) Analytical Catalogue of Fresh and Brackish Water Molluscs of Russia and adjacent countries. Program of fundamental research of Presidium of RAS "Biodiversity of natural systems. Biological resources of Russia" St. Petersburg State University. Moscow.

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: Bonn zoological Bulletin - früher Bonner Zoologische Beiträge.

Jahr/Year: 2021

Band/Volume: 70

Autor(en)/Author(s): Mabrouki Youness, Taybi Abdelkhaleq Fouzi, Glöer Peter

Artikel/Article: Further records of freshwater Gastropods (Mollusca: Hydrobiidae, Lymnaeidae, Planorbidae) from Morocco 273-279