

Abstracts Posters

Arranged in chronological order of the program

MoFA – the newly founded Society for Molluscan Research in Austria

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We are pleased to announce the foundation of the society “Mollusken Forschung Austria – MoFA” („Mollusc Research Austria“), which was authorised by public authority in August 2016. MoFA is a society based in Austria aiming to promote activities of Austrian malacologists and encourage the communication with national and international professional working groups and initiatives. Another task of the society is the enhancement of information exchange and coordination of scientific projects and studies. The society was happily welcomed by several mollusk-related working groups and led already to two small meetings with interesting discussions. More information about MoFA, about molluscs in general and links concerning related initiatives and platforms are provided on our new webpage www.molluskenforschung.at. At the moment MoFA counts 26 members and everyone interested in malacological research in Austria is welcome to join our society and/or sign up for our Mail-Newsletter via the webpage.

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Summer in the city! DNA Barcoding and survey of dragonflies in Vienna: preliminary results

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For Austria, a total of 78 dragonfly species are known. Due to the fact that Vienna provides a mosaic of different biogeographic regions and habitats, the city harbours a high percentage of dragonfly species diversity: 61 species (78 %) have been recorded in Vienna so far. But few is

known about their current number and distribution in the city, especially concerning endangered dragonfly species.

Thus, the overall objective of our three-year project, started in April 2017, is a complete survey of the dragonfly fauna in the rural areas of Vienna, focusing on two specific aims: (1) the occurrence and distribution of two species listed in the Flora-Fauna-Habitat (FFH) Directive, the Balkan Goldenring (*Cordulegaster heros*) and the Yellow Spotted Whiteface (*Leucorrhinia pectoralis*); (2) the acquisition of species specific DNA barcodes of most of the Viennese dragonfly species, including the setup of a reference database comprising the archiving of reference material and the specific DNA sequences of sampled dragonfly specimens.

Data gained in this project on the one hand will help to fulfil the monitoring guidelines of the Flora-Fauna-Habitat Directive of the European Union, on the other hand we will support and contribute to the Austrian Barcode of Life (ABOL) project, a national initiative in biodiversity research.

Within the first project year we record the dragonfly species inventory, particularly focusing on the distribution of *Cordulegaster heros* in streams in deciduous forest areas (Wienerwald and Lainzer Tiergarten), and of *Leucorrhinia pectoralis* in the water bodies of the Lobau, a characteristic floodplain and alluvial forest area. Both species have already been recorded among 43 other species in these areas. Additionally, an unexpected first evidence of *Leucorrhinia albifrons*, also listed as FFH species, was obtained for Vienna. Up to now, DNA samples and reference specimens of 36 species have been collected. Within the second and third year of the project we will survey additional areas of Vienna, focusing on species which have not been recorded or collected within the first year.

As part of this study the DNA barcoding method will also be tested and optimized for DNA samples from exuvia sampled in the field. Moreover, the project includes a pilot study using water samples, which are assumed to contain remains of dragonfly larvae, as DNA source (environmental barcoding; environmental DNA). In a next step, the species inventory obtained by observation of imagos can be compared with the species number detected via environmental barcoding. Both methods, the usage of exuviae and the eDNA approach, depend on a reference database, which will be established within this study. Especially in dealing with species under protection with high biomonitoring value, non-invasive methods like these have a high potential to contribute to the modern biodiversity research, filling the gaps of knowledge of the distribution of dragonfly species.

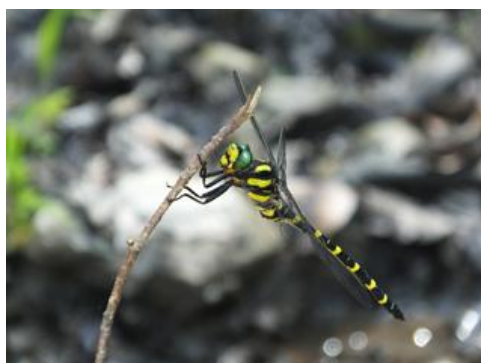


Fig. 1. *Cordulegaster heros* (Foto: I. Fischer)



Fig. 2. *Leucorrhinia pectoralis* (Foto: I. Fischer)

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