

Present distribution of *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* (Gray, 1843) (Mollusca: Gastropoda) in the Slovak Republic

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All published and known unpublished data on *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* (Gray, 1843) from the Slovak Republic are summarised. The Slovak distribution is restricted to the southern parts of the country close to the Danube, Morava, and Hron Rivers. Geographic and vertical distribution is described. The most of the localities are placed between 100 and 140 m a.s.l., the highest situated known record was in 277 m a.s.l. *P. antipodarum* inhabits slowly flowing rivers and different types of standing waters in Slovakia.

Key words: *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, geographic distribution, ecology, Slovakia

Introduction

The aquatic snail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* (Gray, 1843) was probably introduced for the first time to Europe from the New Zealand subregion as early as 1859. It was first recognised in Europe as *Hydrobia jenkinsi* by SMITH (1889) from Plumstead, Beeton and Erith, in the Thames estuary, England. Although there might have been earlier introductions, it is considered that the Thames introduction is the source of the population in Europe. This species is native to New Zealand from where it was introduced into Australia and Tasmania. It was introduced to Britain in drinking water barrels on ships from Australia (PONDER 1988). The snails were probably liberated while washing or filling water barrels or tanks and, because they can survive in brackish water, they could probably survive liberation into estuarine areas such as the Thames River. This species can reproduce rapidly parthenogenetically. It thrives in freshwater and has become the most common freshwater gastropod in some European countries, e.g. Great Britain (HEPPELL 2008).

In the Slovak stretch of the Danube River it was found for the first time in 1986 by KOŠEL (1995), further records from the Danube River were published by ČEJKA (1994). Compared with other European countries its rate of spread around the Slovakia is moderate. Firstly along major rivers, then filling in the canals, ditches and smaller water bodies.

Results

Published data

Data are given as follows: number of the quadrat of the faunistic mapping grid (according to LISICKÝ 1991), site characteristics and references; “R.” means river, “ch.” means channel.

7770d: Senec, Senecké Jazero gravel pit, in the littoral woody debris, mass occurrence (ŠTEFĚK 2000), **7868a**: Bratislava, Karloveské Rameno ch. (KOŠEL 1995, KOŠEL in KRNO et al. 1999), **8070a**: Dobrohošť, main ch. of the Danube R., riprap stones (ČEJKA 1994, KOŠEL 1995, KOŠEL in KRNO et al. 1999), **8070d**: Bodíky, main ch. of the Danube R., riprap stones (ČEJKA 1994, KOŠEL 1995, KOŠEL in KRNO et al. 1999), Bodíky, side arm of the Danube R., eupotamal (KOŠEL 1995, KOŠEL in KRNO et al. 1999), **8171c**: Gabčíkovo, main ch. of the Danube R., riprap stones (KOŠEL 1995, KOŠEL in KRNO et al. 1999), **8272a**: Klúčovec, main ch. of the Danube R., riprap stones (KOŠEL 1995, KOŠEL in KRNO et al. 1999).

Unpublished data

Data are given as follows: coordinates according to WGS-84 (Google Earth, GOOGLE TEAM 2007), number of the quadrat of the faunistic mapping grid (according to LISICKÝ 1991), nearest settlement, name of water body, site characteristics, elevation, absolute or relative abundance, date of collection, name of collector; “R.” means river, “ch.” means channel (river arm).

48°12'15", **16°58'06"** (7767d) Bratislava – Devínska Nová Ves, Morava R., main ch., 137 m a.s.l., 10 ind., 10 Nov 2005, Čejka & Dvořák; **48°31'27"**, **16°56'33"** (7467d) Malé Leváre, Mo-

rava R., main ch., 147 m a.s.l., 2 ind., 7 Sep 2006, Šporka & Hamerlík; **48°14'04"**, **17°12'13"** (7769c) Sv. Jur, ditch, 132 m a.s.l., mass occurrence, 9 Nov 2005, Čejka & Dvořák; **48°01'42"**, **17°41'48"** (7972c) Dunajský Klátov, ditch, 110 m a.s.l., 5 ind., 5 Nov 2003, Čejka; **48°07'55"**, **17°29'20"** (7870d) Jelka, Lesser Danube, eupotamal, 120 m a.s.l., 1 ind., 20 May 2005, Čejka; **48°09'38"**, **17°05'13"** (7868b) Bratislava – Horský Park, brook, 197 m a.s.l., mass occurrence, 8 Nov 2005, Čejka & Dvořák; **48°01'37"**, **17°12'18"** (7969c) Bratislava-Čuňovo, Danube R., dextral seepage canal, on riprap stones 127 a.s.l., 2 ind., 28 Apr 1998, Čejka; **47°48'60"**, **18°44'20"** (8178c) Kamenica n. Hronom, Danube R., eupotamal, mud with admixed sand, 107 m a.s.l., 2 ind., 24 Oct 2007, Čejka; **48°33'48"**, **19°6'36.15"** (7480b) Zvolen, Slatina R., estuary at the confluence with Hron R., gravel-cobblestone bottom, 277 m a.s.l., low abundant (<1%), 19 Apr 2002, Ščerbáková-Hrabinová; **48°06'25"**, **17°06'50"** (7868d) Bratislava-Petržalka, Veľký Draždiak gravel pit (bathing establishment in summer), littoral, sandy-gravel bottom, 132.5 m a.s.l., ca. 10 ind./m², 15 Jun 2004, Dvořák; **48°07'52"**, **17°10'25"** (7868d) Bratislava-Vlčie Hrdlo district, Lesser Danube (arm of the Danube R.), eupotamal, 129 m a.s.l., 6 ind./1 hour visual search, 15 Jun 2007, Dvořák; **48°06'16"**, **17°08'26"** (7868c) Bratislava-Vlčie Hrdlo, Danube R. (river km 1863), eupotamal, ripal, no macrophytes, contaminated by Slovnaft refinery, slow flow (partially lenitic), 20–30 cm muddy sediment with admixed sand. Mean flow 1612 m³.s⁻¹; 135 m a.s.l., 3 ind., 26.11.1998, Elexová; **47°49'13"**, **18°48'53"** (8178c) Chľaba, Danube R., 5 km downstream from Hron and Danube confluence, main ch., eupotamal, littoral zone, cobble bottom, no macrophytes, mean flow 1898 m³.s⁻¹, mean water level 152 cm, 103 m a.s.l., 2 ind., 7 Oct 1997; Elexová; **47°45'38"**, **18°08'35"** (8274b) Komárno, Váh R. estuary, muddy sediment with admixed sand, several stones, mean flow 85 m³.s⁻¹, 110.7 m a.s.l., 16 Sep 1997, Elexová; **47°53'01"**, **18°45'49"** (8178b) Salka, Ipeľ R., cobble-gravel bottom, several bunches of submersed macrophytes, flow fluctuates, 110 m a.s.l., 2 ind., 7 Dec 1998, Elexová; **47°52'30"**, **17°29'13"** (8171a) Baka,

Danube R. (R. km 1823.5, Bačianske Rameno ch.), parapotal, littoral, riprap stones, 118 m a.s.l., 3 ind.h⁻¹, 22 Nov 1989, Košel; **47°55'26"**, **17°26'41"** (8070d) Bodíky, Danube R. (R. km 1823.5, Bodické Rameno ch.), eupotamal, littoral, riprap stones, 118 m a.s.l., 3 ind.h⁻¹, 2–95 ind.m⁻², 22 Aug 2001, 11 Oct 2001, 18 Jun 2003, 16 Jul 2003, 11 Sep 2003, 3 Jun 2004, 28 Sep 2004, 1 Jun 2005, 10 Aug 2005, 14 Jun 2006, 31 Jul 2006, 29 Sep 2006, 6 Jun 2007, 9 Aug 2007, Košel; **48°11'19.59"**, **17°11'24"** (7869a) Bratislava – Zlaté Piesky, gravel pit (bathing establishment in summer), littoral, 128 m a.s.l., 42 ind.h⁻¹ (91.3 %, eudominant), 17–24 ind.m⁻², 22 Aug 2001, 11.10.2001, Košel; **48°03'53"**, **17°09'50"** (7968b) Bratislava – Rusovce, main ch. of the Danube R. (R. km 1858), ripal, riprap stones, 107 m a.s.l., 3 ind.m⁻² (91.3 %, eudominant), 17–24 ind.m⁻², 22 Aug 2001, 11.10.2001, Košel; **47°59'14"**, **17°20'37"** (8070a) Dobrohošť, main ch. of the Danube R. (R. km 1840.5), ripal, riprap stones, 122.4 m a.s.l., 17–24 ind.m⁻², 28 Sep 1995–10 Nov 2002, Košel; **47°59'32"**, **17°21'04"** (8070a) Dobrohošť, dextral seepage canal of the Gabčíkovo hydraulic structures (R. km 1840), littoral, stones, 123 m a.s.l., 10 Jun 1996, Šípoš; **47°57'41"**, **17°35'28"** (8071a) Dunajská Streda, Vojka–Mliečany ditch, cobbles in a littoral zone 116 m a.s.l., 12 Aug 1998, Šípoš; **47°51'56"**, **17°31'41.5"** (8171a) Gabčíkovo, main ch. of the Danube R. (R. km 1819.7), ripal, riprap stones, 114 m a.s.l., 5–137 ind.m⁻², 12 Aug 1997–28 Sep 2004, Košel; **48°01'57"**, **17°14'51"** (7969c) Hamuliakovo, reservoir of the Gabčíkovo waterworks, mud with admixed sand, 131.5 m a.s.l., 10 ind.m⁻², 16 Oct 1995–13 Sep 2001, Nagy; **48°02'49"**, **17°14'16"** (7969a) Kalinkovo, reservoir of the Gabčíkovo waterworks, muddy substrate with admixed sand, 132 m a.s.l., 2 ind.m⁻², 26 Sep 1995, Šípoš; **47°47'21"**, **17°39'47"** (8272a) Kľúčovec, main ch. of the Danube R., ripal with riprap stones, 110 m a.s.l., 2–27 ind.m⁻², 9 Sep 1997–25 Sep 1998, Košel; **47°46'12"**, **18°32'51"** (8277a) Mužla – Čenkov, main ch. of the Danube R., ripal with riprap stones, 107 m a.s.l., 6 ind.m⁻², 22 Aug 1989, 6 ind.m⁻², 1 Oct 1992, Košel; **48°51'37.6"**, **17°15'47.6"** (7169c) Skalica, littoral zone of the Sudoměřický Potok brook, 3 km from confluence

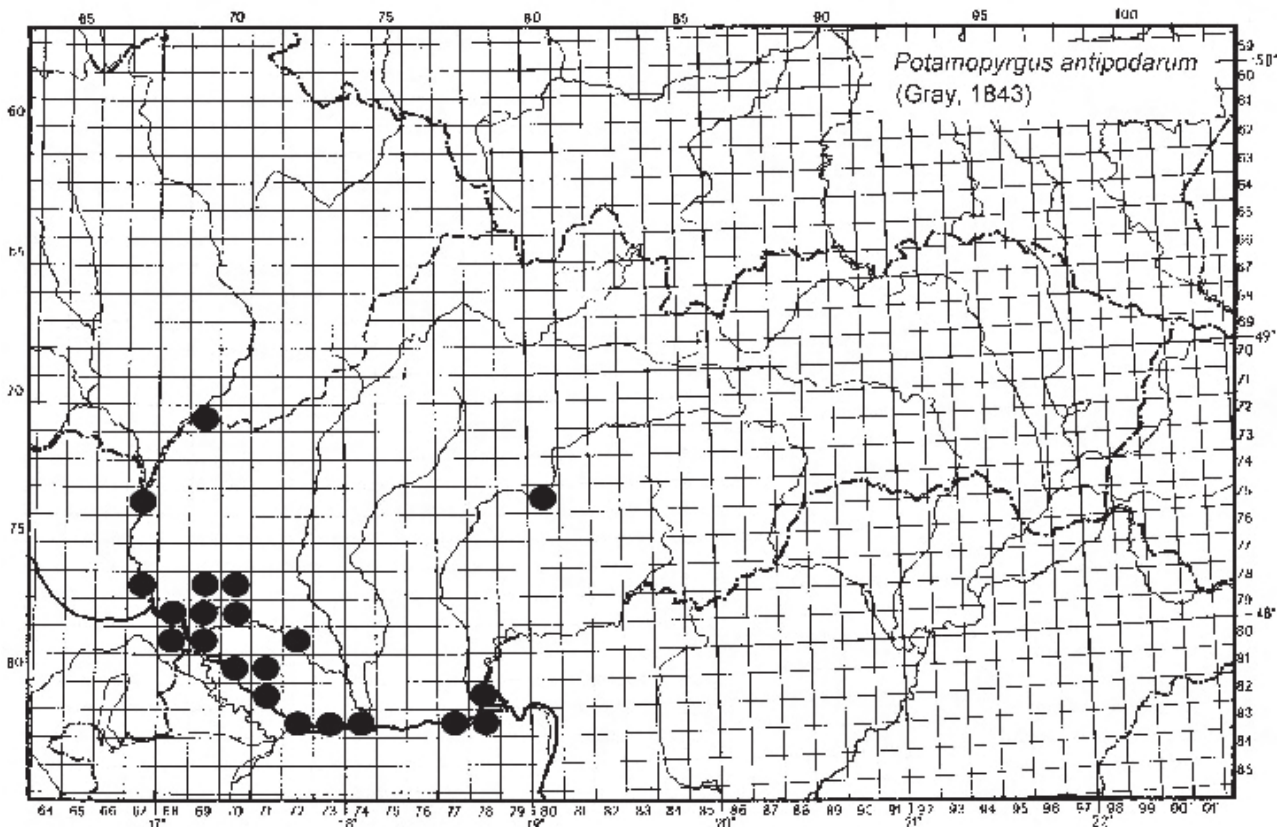


Fig. 1. The present distribution of *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* in the Slovak Republic.

with Radějovka brook, 224 m a.s.l., 3 ind., 2 Oct 2002, Šípoš; 48°01'11", 17°17'15" (7969d) Šamorín, reservoir of the Gabčíkovo waterworks, mud with admixed sand, R.km 1845, 131,5 m a.s.l., 2 ind.m⁻², 14 Nov 1995, Šípoš; 47°47'53", 18°43'41" (8278a) Štúrovo, main ch. of the Danube R., R.km 1718,4, riprap stones, 105 m a.s.l., 2 ind.m⁻², 29 Sep 1991, Košel; 47°56'27", 17°26'22" (8070a) Šul'any, Danube R. – Šulianske Rameno ch., parapotamal, riprap stones, 119 m a.s.l., 12 ind.m⁻², 22 Sep 1992, Košel; 47°58'24", 17°28'33" (8070a) Šul'any, Dobrohošť-Vojka-Kračany ditch, littoral, gravel-sandy bottom 121 m a.s.l., 1 ind.m⁻², 24 Aug 1993, Šípoš; 47°58'12", 17°48'49" (8171d) Topoľníky, Lesser Danube, Topoľnícke Rameno arm, parapotamal, riprap stones, 113,6 m a.s.l., 9 ind.h⁻¹, 1 Sep 1991, Košel; 47°58'00", 17°22'07" (8070a) Vojka nad Dunajom, main channel of the Dunaj R., R.km 1838, eupotamal, riprap stones, 122 m a.s.l., 11 ind.m⁻², 1 Sep 1991, Košel; 47°58'42", 17°25'05" (8070a) Vojka nad Dunajom, Dobrohošť-Vojka-Kračany ditch (R.km 2.0–5.0), littoral, 123 m a.s.l., 11 ind.m⁻², 24 Aug 1993, Šípoš; 47°45'25", 17°58'41" (8273b) Zlatná n. Ostrove, main ch. of the Danube R., ripal, riprap stones, 108 m a.s.l., 3 ind.h⁻¹, 29 Oct 1991, Košel. For distribution in Slovakia see at Fig. 1.

Distribution in some European and west Asian countries

P. antipodarum is a common species in England, Scotland, and Ireland (KERNEY 1999). The situation is similar on the West European seacoast – the species is common in the Netherlands, mainly along the seacoast (GITTEBERGER et al. 1998), Belgium (ADAM 1960), France (FALKNER et al. 2002) and in Germany, where it is a widespread species, but is the most common in northern states (GLÖER 2002, GLÖER & MEIER-BROOK 2003). Close to Central Europe, *P. antipodarum* is widespread in Switzerland (except for the mountains and the South (RÜETSCHI, pers. comm., CSCF 2008) and all federal states of Austria (SATTMANN & MILDNER 1998).

It is a relatively rare species in North Europe and it is restricted to the southern parts only. The published data comprise e.g. South Norway (ØKLAND 1990), West Sweden (NIELSSON et al. 1998), Denmark (MANDAHL-BARTH 1949), Finnish coastline (VALOVRTA 1987) or Kaliningrad Area of Russia (KANTOR & SYSOEV 2005). There is only one record of *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* in Belarus. It was found by POLISCHUK et al. (1976) in the wetlands of the lower courses of the Pripyat River (sometimes in 'high densities'). The distribution in Central Europe towards east is more fractional. *P. antipodarum* is relatively common in the Czech Republic, mainly in Northwest Bohemia (BERAN 2002, 2006). In Poland, the distribution comprises the seacoast and lowland areas of the whole country (PIECHOCKI 1979). In Hungary, the distribution is restricted to the Danube River and Balaton Lake, the single record is known from the north (FRANK et al. 1990, PINTÉR & SUARA 2004). The only data from Ukraine are known from several bays of the Black Sea (Ukraine) (KANTOR & SYSOEV 2005).

The species is probably rare in South Europe, except Italy, where it is common and widespread (CIANFANELLI 2007) and Spain (GLÖER, pers. comm.). The only locality is known from Romania, where *P. antipodarum* was found in the Cerna River, near Serbian border (SIRBU 2004). GLÖER (pers. comm.) examined many mollusc samples

from Montenegro and South Serbia (S of Beograd) and a few from Greece and Turkey (also from Iraq and Iran), all without *P. antipodarum*. On the other hand, GLÖER (pers. comm.) found this species in Lebanon. The occurrence of *P. antipodarum* well corresponds with the situation in surrounding countries: the species occurrence seems to be fractional towards the east.

Biology and ecology

Potamopyrgus antipodarum occurs at high densities in a wide range of freshwater habitats throughout New Zealand. *P. antipodarum* is a nocturnal grazer, feeding on plant and animal detritus, epiphytic and periphytic algae, sediments and diatoms (BROEKHUIZEN et al. 2001, JAMES et al. 2000, KELLY & HAWES 2005, PARKYN et al. 2005, ZARANKO et al. 1997). The snail tolerates siltation, thrives in disturbed watersheds, and benefits from high nutrient flows allowing for filamentous green algae growth. It occurs amongst macrophytes and prefers littoral zones in lakes or slow streams with silt and organic matter substrates, but tolerates high flow environments where it can burrow into the sediment (ZARANKO et al. 1997, COLLIER et al. 1998, HOLOMUZKI & BIGGS 1999, HOLOMUZKI & BIGGS 2000, NEGOVETIC & JOKELA 2000, RICHARDS et al. 2001, WEATHERHEAD & JAMES 2001, DEATH et al. 2003, SCHREIBER et al. 2003, SUREN 2005). The snail reaches high densities, e.g. in the Great Lakes, North America, it reaches densities as high as 5,600 m⁻² and is found at depths of 4–45 m on a silt and sand substrate (ZARANKO et al. 1997, LEVRI et al. 2007). *P. antipodarum* is ovoviviparous and parthenogenic. The snail produces ~230 young per year. Reproduction occurs in spring and summer, and the life cycle is annual (ZARANKO et al. 1997, SCHREIBER et al. 1998, LIVELY & JOKELA 2002, GERARD et al. 2003, HALL et al. 2003). This species is euryhaline, establishing populations in fresh and brackish water. The optimal salinity is probably near or below 5 ppt, but *P. antipodarum* is capable of feeding, growing, and reproducing at salinities of 0–15 ppt and can tolerate 30–35 ppt for short periods of time (JACOBSEN & FORBES 1997, ZARANKO et al. 1997, LEPPÄKOSKI & OLENIN 2000, COSTIL et al. 2001, GERARD et al. 2003). It tolerates temperatures of 0–34°C (ZARANKO et al. 1997, COX &

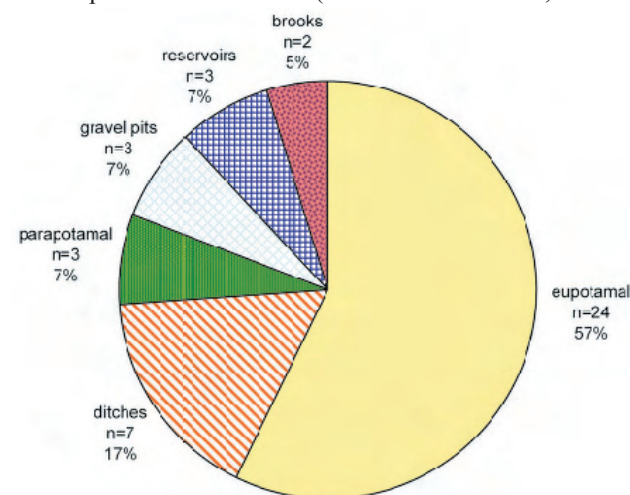


Fig. 2. The distribution of *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* in different freshwater habitats in Slovakia.

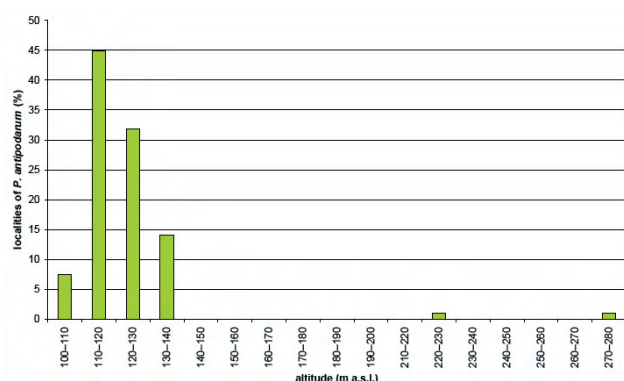


Fig. 3. Frequency of occurrences of the snail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* in different altitudes in the territory of Slovakia.

RUTHERFORD 2000). *P. antipodarum* can survive passage through the guts of fish and birds and may be transported by these animals (AAMIO & BORNSDORFF 1997).

In Slovakia, it was found in rivers – the highest proportion (57 %) of the published and unpublished data listed in this paper belong to eupotamal water bodies, it is also common in ditches (17 %). The distribution of *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* in different freshwater habitats in Slovakia see in Fig. 2.

Concerning the vertical distribution of *P. antipodarum* in Slovakia, most of Slovak records were in the altitude of 110–120 m a.s.l. (see Fig. 3).

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