

1st INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS  
CONCERNING THE RHYNCHOTA FAUNA  
OF BALKAN AND ADJACENT REGIONS



*Parorgerius platypus* (Fieber, 1866)

(A bioindicator)!

29 August - 2 September 1983  
Mikrolimni - Prespa  
GREECE

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CONCERNING THE RHYNCHOTA FAUNA  
OF BALKAN AND ADJACENT REGIONS**

**PROCEEDINGS**

(Edited by SAKIS DROSOPOULOS)

**Sponsors**

**Ministry of Culture and Science  
Hellenic Entomological Society**

**29 August - 2 September 1983  
Mikrolimni - Prespa  
GREECE**

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**The Organizing Committee**

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## Opening address

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very glad that we are all gathered here for this occasion, realizing an idea of the "Coordinating Committee" of the Congress after almost a year. A year ago the idea seemed more close to phantasy than to reality. But it was a nice idea and I hope all of you will agree.

At first we thought of organizing a small meeting instead of a congress. However, participation in such a meeting would have had many disadvantages for most of the participants. And on the other hand, why not a congress?

Also it was important to choose a locality where many colleagues would be able to do some field-collecting. And collecting should be stimulated by the presence of some rare species. Such a locality, as you will realize later on, is where we are now.

As Mr. George Catsadorakis will inform us, the Micri Prespa area is well known all over the world for its avian fauna. Of course, birds are nice animals. They are easy to watch with binoculars and they are not so very numerous in species. If I am well informed there are approximately 200 species of birds within the Prespa area, which is a good number for one biotope.

However, extensive investigations by the members of the "Coordinating Committee" of the Congress revealed that there is a much larger number of Rhynchota species in this area. Here I must say, especially for the non-specialists in Rhynchota, that the Rhynchota are a large super-order of insects including Heteroptera and Homoptera. The species of groups of Rhynchota best known in Greece are the Pentatomidae (βρωμοῦσες), Cimisidae (κορτοί), Cicadinae (τσιτσικιά), Aphidoidea (αφίδες ή μελιγκρες), (Coccoidea (διάφορες ψώρες) and Psyllidae (ψύλλες). In this area we have collected so far more than 600 species of this group. This number is very large, for we have to consider that in the whole of Greece occur approximately 2000 species of Heteroptera and Auchenorrhyncha. At the moment we have identified the species of only one family: the Delphacidae. Its 55 species from this area account for 55% of the number of species found in the whole of Greece and equals or exceeds the number of delphacid species reported from other balkan countries. Most of these species are not only harmless to the crops, but some are very rare, occurring only in some natural biotopes that are not too much influenced by human activities. Therefore these very tiny insects can be used as bioindicators for the quality of a biotope. By using these criteria there are no doubts so far, that the National Park of the Prespa Lakes is one of the best biotopes existing in Greece.

For all these reasons and despite of some disadvantages concerning the facilities of a village for the organization of a congress, we believe that such type of congresses should be organized far away from the big cities. Furthermore, the people living in or near a protected area should have the opportunity to contact and to discuss with the congress participants, who are professionally interested in their area. As far as I am informed, until to-day there has been no such activities in the Prespa region.

This, of course, was realized in the first place by the Governor of the Province of Florina: Mr C. Kritsinis and by the Minister of Labour and Financial Resources: Mr. C. Giannopoulos, the representative of the Parliament: Mr. P. Stephanides and the mayor of the village of Microlimni: Mr. G. Costantinides. They are all here and we are very pleased that they have shown their personal interest in our congress. We appreciate very much that they will open the Congress. But first I would like to announce the sincere wishes for the succes of this Congress, addressed to us by telegram, from the Minister of Culture and Science: Mrs. M. Mercouri and the Minister of Research and Technology: Mr. G. Lianis, who have both supported the Congress financially. We received another telegram, wishing succes to the

Congress from the "Elliniki Eteria", Hellenic Society, which shelters the Congress in this Biological Station. We warmly thank all these persons for their support. But most of all we thank the participants from abroad, who responded so positively to our idea for communication and cooperation between specialists working on this animal group in the balkan region.

Plenty of questions are left open concerning the biology, the distribution, ecology, speciation and phylogeny of this group of animals. As was mentioned in our first circular, to-day not even the inventory of most of the Rhynchota - groups may be considered as finished for the balkan area. Therefore, at present any zoogeographic analysis of nearly any balkan Rhynchota - group is considerably complicated or rather impossible.

It is a pity that several colleagues who showed interest in participating in this Congress finally could not come. Anyhow we expect that they will be able to join the next meeting which we intend to organize after 3 years, preferably in the same place.

Thank you.

S. DROSPOULOS

Afterwards the Governor of Florina, Mr. C. Kritsinis and the Minister of Labour and Financial Resources, Mr. C. Giannopoulos welcomed the participants. They focussed on the need of the Greek people to obtain "ecological conscience". They also expressed their enthousiasm for such a congress in a remote area of Greece and they promised fuller support for the second Congress. They even suggested for the Congress to be organized more frequently.

#### **Other activities**

Besides the morning sessions, afternoons were allocated to field trips, resting, and swimming at the Megali Prespa lake.

Lunch and dinner was taken at Microlimni by all the participants, so that there was plenty of time for discussion under the influence of the fine hospitality of the local tavern of Mr. George Chassios and his savory "Amynteon rosé wine"! Many thanks to this nice person and his family.

A day excursion with some collecting was made to Kastoria and Klissoura.

A lunch was offered to all participants by the governor of the county of Florina Mr. K. Kritsinis, who kindly joined the excursion. Many thanks to him as well. A dinner was also offered by the "Organizing Committee".

#### **Closing Session**

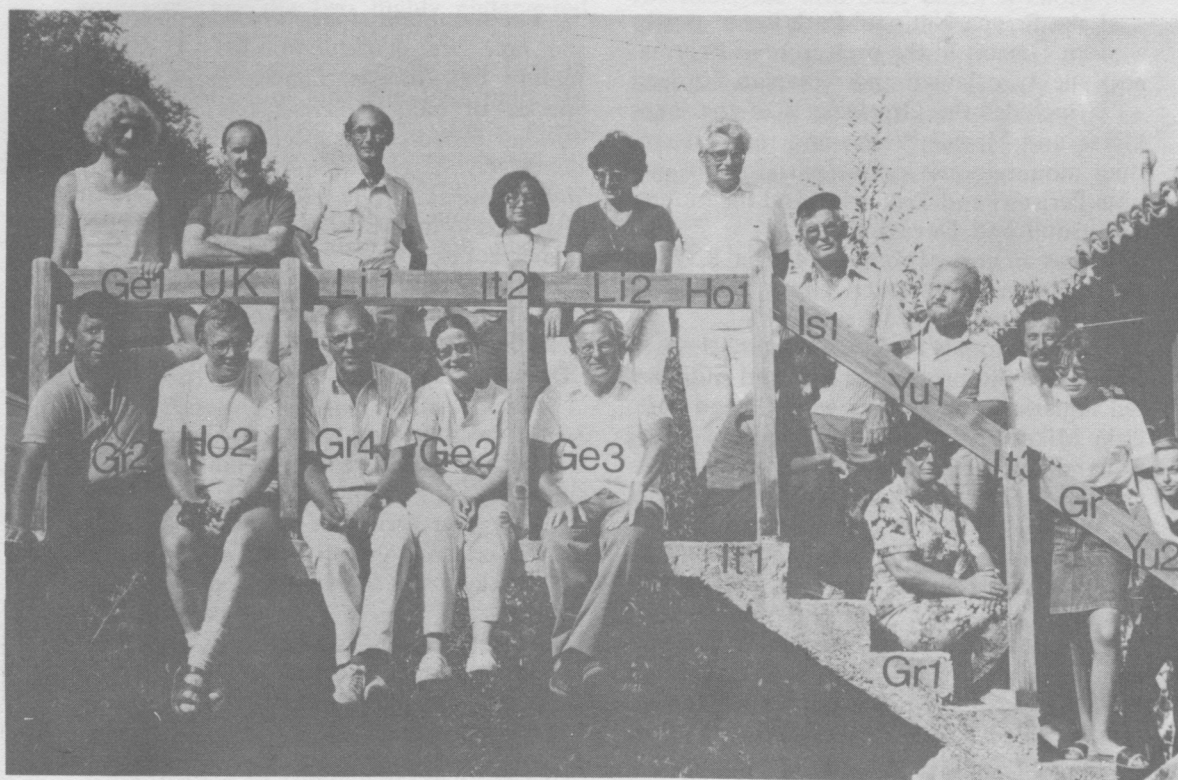
On behalf of the "Organizing Committee" Sakis Drosopoulos expressed his sincere thanks to all participants for their contribution to the success of the Congress.

It was decided that this Congress will be organized again at the same time and place in three years (1986). Also it was proposed that the International Coordinating Committee will be increased in number by some well known and active specialists on Rhynchota of the eastern Mediterranean area. The following hemipterologists were proposed for that Committee: M. Gogala and L. Jankovic (Yugoslavia), M. Josifov (Bulgaria), N. Lodos (Turkey), H. Abdul-Nour (Libanon), M. Klein (Israel), V. D'Urso (Italy).

René Cobben on behalf of the participants emphasized the importance of this kind of meetings for the Balkan and Middle East area. He expressed his views on which topics of research entomologists should focus on. In addition, he expressed (in his nice and familiar style) the sincere appreciation of participating in an exceptional Congress, as far as its organization, the hospitality of the local people, and, the beautiful area where it took place is concerned.

### Participants

- Germany : 1. M. Asche, 2. H. Hoch, 3. R. Remane, 4. Mrs Remane 5. R. Sergel.  
Greece : 1. L. Argyriou, 2. I. Charantonis, 3. Mrs. Charantonis, 4. S. Drosopoulos,  
5. G. Katsadorakis, 6. V. Koutsoumpa.  
Holland : 1. R.H. Cobben, 2. P. de Vrijer.  
Israel : 1. M. Klein, 2. Mrs Klein, 3. Miss Klein.  
Italy : 1. V. D'Urso, 2. S. Ippolito, 3. F. Lombardo.  
Lebanon : 1. H. Abdul-Nour, 2. Mrs Abdul-Nour.  
U. K. : 1. M. Wilson.  
Yugoslavia: 1. M. Gogala, 2. A. Gogala.  
Missing : 1. L. Santas (Greece), N. Lodos (Turkey), M. Claridge (U.K.), L. Jankovic  
and V. Velimirovic (Yugoslavia), R. Stys (Czechoslovakia).



**Table 2. Zoogeographic analysis of the delphacid fauna of the Province of Florina.**

Number of species (%)		Distribution	
19	(36.0)	} (53.0)	Eurosiberian
9	(17.0)		European
4	( 7.5)	Pontomediterranean	
4	( 7.5)	Eurosiberian - mediterranean	
5	( 9.4)	Euromediterranean	
4	( 7.5)	Endemic	
2	( 3.8)	Holarctic	
6	(11.3)	Mediterranean	

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## Round table on nature conservation in Greece as indicated by Rhynchota

A summary written by S. DROSPOULOS

Mr. G. Katsadorakis, focussing on the problems concerning the management of the National Park of Prespa, said the following:

The problems of the Park are not a few. Some of them are common to those of other "protected" areas in Greece. Most of these problems could - but have not yet - find a solution, if there was a real concern of the Greek state for the protection of nature.

I mention below these problems which I consider the most important :

- There is no legislation for the National Parks yet.
- There is no special service for our National Parks and thus no personel to work in them and for them. Up to now this task was undertaken by the Forest Service

which doesn't suffice for this too. As a consequence, there is illegal hunting, tree cutting, grazing illegal disturbance to the bird colonies, e.t.c.

- The already existing regulations are not properly fitted to the specific problems of the area, so the local people have a bad disposition against the National Park (of course it isn't always easy to make them have a good one).
- Additionally there is no educational program for the local people to be informed about what, how and why, in a National Park.
- There is no satisfactory elementary knowledge and no finances for research. So a lot of questions remain unanswered:

What about the eutrofication trend of the lake? What about the overspreading of the reed beds? What's the effect to the ecosystem of the introduction (not intentional) of the two foreign fish species? What was the effect of the fish disease that stroke at early seventies, especially the carp of the lake (commercially the most important species of the lake). What can be done about the gradual elimination of the main feeding places (shallow waters, wet meadows) of some aquatic bird species, especially Ardeidae?

With all these problems waiting for a solution, it is also extremely crucial that, the new "development program" for the area which is financed by the E.E.C., takes them seriously under consideration and should not be hastily applied, otherwise, in a few years, Lake Prespa National Park will no longer be what it has been until today: a paradise for birds and wildlife, a precious part of our natural legacy.

Discussing the general aspects of nature protection further, the participants of the Congress expressed their experiences from their own countries and some of them from Greece. The main conclusions are the following:

1. Natural scientists must always be ready to convince other people and authorities, using good arguments, why a certain area has to be protected. This is to avoid people thinking that economical interests are being sacrificed for the benefit of the studies of a few scientists.
2. It is crucial to know what has to be protected in a certain area, on the basis of scientific investigations and not on superficial observations.
3. From the biological point of view it is better to protect areas with large number of species, indicating a stable ecosystem.
4. Additionally it is worthwhile to study animal-plant associations, the latter indicating the quality of a biotope.
5. Military areas are the best examples of biotopes rich in species and with stable populations. They are good examples of refuges for many species.
6. Protected areas should not be exploited touristically. To help avoid tourism in such areas naturalists should avoid ma-

king an area well known.

7. If necessary private people or Societies should buy certain areas in order to protect them.
8. Modern agricultural or industrial developments can not be combined with the protection of an area. Thus investment of money in such areas should not be considered by the local people or others. Grazing, fishing, hunting, wood-cutting etc. should be avoided within the protected area. In the surrounding area care should be taken these activities will not disturb or endanger the balance in the protected area. Therefore reduction of the costs of exploitation can not be the first aim in such areas.
9. All participants experienced that Rhyngochta are useful bioindicators as well as other groups of animals.