

Softmouth Trout (*Salmothymus obtusirostris krkensis*) from the Krka River

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Abstract

The softmouth trout is an endemic species in the Adriatic river system. When caught from the rivers Zrmanja, Jadro and Vrljika, it was first described as *Salar obtusirostris* (Heckel, 1851). Subsequent differentiation of morphological characteristics among different softmouth trout populations resulted in three additional subspecies: *Salmo obtusirostris oxyrhynchus* (Steindachner, 1882) from the river Neretva, *Salmo obtusirostris salonitana* (Karaman, 1927) from the river Jadro, and *Salmo obtusirostris krkensis* (Karaman, 1927) from the River Krka. The Krka softmouth trout inhabits a very restricted area of the upper part of the river Krka nearby the Croatian town Knin and it is the scarcest and most endangered subspecies of the softmouth trout. The main morphological trait, specific for the Krka softmouth trout, is blunt snout which makes it look malevolent, so the natives named it *zlousta* or “evil mouth” trout. For investigation purposes, only one specimen of *S. obtusirostris krkensis* was obtained - a female, total length 61,2 cm and weight 2,5 kg. Meristic traits could be expressed by the following formula: D IV 10-11, A III-IV 8-10, V II 8, P II 12, l.l. 102 21-24/17-21 116. As no reference has been found in literature on the biology of these species, the aim of this study was to research the morphology and the diet of the *S. obtusirostris krkensis* from the Krka river.

Key words: *S. obtusirostris krkensis*, endem, morfology, diet

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Zlousta pastrva (*Salmothymus obtusirostris krkensis*) iz rijeke Krke

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Sažetak

Mekousne pastrve su endemske ribe u krškim dalmatinskim rijekama. Prvi put su opisane u rijekama Zrmanja, Jadro i Vrljika kao *Salar obtusirostris* (Heckel, 1851). Kasnijim istraživanjima morfoloških razlika mekousnih pastrva utvrđene su tri podvrste: *Salmo obtusirostris oxyrhynchus* (Steindachner, 1882) iz rijeke Neretve, *Salmo obtusirostris salonitana* (Karaman, 1927) iz rijeke Jadro i *Salmo obtusirostris krkensis* (Karaman, 1927) iz rijeke Krke. Mekousna pastrva nastanjuje vrlo skučen areal u gornjem toku rijeke Krke u blizini grada Knina. Veoma je rijetka i može se opisati kao najugroženija podvrsta mekousnih pastrva. Jedno od morfoloških obilježje ove pastrve je njena tupa njuška koja joj daje "zločest" izgled. Odatle joj i naziv "zlousta" pastrva. Za potrebe istraživanja u posljednjih nekoliko godina ulovljen je samo jedan primjerak zlouste. Ulovljeni primjerak bila je ženka, totalne dužine 61,2 cm, a težila je 2,5 kg. Meristička obilježja mogu se prikazati formulom: D IV 10-11, A III-IV 8-10, V II 8, P II 12, l.l. 102 21-24/17-21 116. Kako u literaturi nema podataka o biologiji *S. obtusirostris krkensis*, svrha ovog rada je prikazati morfološke izmjere te analizom probavila, dotaknuti sastav i strukturu njene prirodne ishrane.

Ključne riječi: *S. obtusirostris krkensis*, endem, morfologija, ishrana

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