

ALIEN MOLLUSCS SPECIES IN LATVIA: DESCRIPTION OF SITUATION AND FORECASTING

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Up to date, 171 mollusc species have been recorded in the fauna of Latvia. Altogether 16 species (9.4 %) of all known species are of non-native origin. The half of known alien molluscs already is reported by H. Schlesch in 1942 – *Oxychilus cellarius* (O. F. Müller, 1774), *Limax maximus* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Arianta arbustorum* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Cepaea nemoralis* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Helix pomatia* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Dreissena polymorpha* (Pallas, 1771), *Lithoglyphus naticoides* (C.Pfeiffer, 1828), and *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* (J. E. Gray, 1843) (Schlesch 1942). Other introduced molluscs have been recorded only during the last 30 years – *Oxychilus draparnaudi* (H. Beck, 1837) in 1986 (Riga), *Xerolenta obvia* (Menke, 1828) in 1989 (Liepaja), *Krynickyllus melanocephalus* (Kaleniczenko, 1851) in 1997 (Salaspils), *Limacus flavus* (Linnaeus, 1758) in 1999 (Liepaja), *Oxychilus translucidus* (Mortillet, 1853) in 2000 (Riga), *Cepaea vindobonensis* (C. Pfeiffer, 1828) in 2006 (Riga), *Arion lusitanicus* auctt., non J. (Mabille, 1868) in 2008 (Pastende) and in 2010 (Jelgava), and *Limacus maculatus* (Kaleniczenko, 1851) in 2009 (Riga).

In Latvia all introduced molluscs have stable populations. Only *Arianta arbustorum*, *Krynickyllus melanocephalus*, and *Dreissena polymorpha* can be treated as an invasive species in Latvia. In Germany, the alien *K. melanocephalus* has been observed as alone slug species in some of its distribution localities (U. Bössneck, pers. com.), and it is predictable that *K. melanocephalus* can squeeze out native slugs from their habitats in Latvia. The two species, *Arion lusitanicus* and *Limax maximus* can be treated as a potentially invasive species. For the time being *Xerolenta obvia* in almost all localities of its distribution is in highly dense populations, the species is associated only with typical anthropogenic habitats. However, the species can distribute in natural habitats and become invasive, as it has occurred elsewhere.

References

Schlesch H. 1942. Die Land- und Süßwassermollusken Letlands mit Berücksichtigung der in den Nachbargebieten vorkommenden Arten. *Korrespondenzblatt des Naturforscher Vereins zu Riga* 64: 246-360.