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B. SKET

THE FRESHWATER MACROINVERTEBRATES  
OF FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA (NORTHEASTERN ITALY):  
LEECHES (HIRUDINEA)

*I MACROINVERTEBRATI DELLE ACQUE INTERNE  
DEL FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA (ITALIA NORD-ORIENTALE):  
SANGUISUGHE (HIRUDINEA)*

**Abstract** - 13 taxa of Hirudinea were identified in a rich set of samples from running waters of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, NE Italy. *Dina* cf. *punctata* was by far the most widespread among them while here *Erpobdella octoculata* was much more limited in occurrence than usual in Central Europe. Due to some unresolved taxonomic questions in the genera *Glossiphonia*, *Piscicola* and *Dina*, the material could not be definitely classified.

**Key words:** Benthic macroinvertebrates, Hirudinea, Freshwaters, Distribution, Northeastern Italy.

**Riassunto breve** - 13 taxa di irudinei sono stati identificati in un ricco insieme di campioni provenienti dalle acque correnti del Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italia NE. *Dina* cf. *punctata* si è rivelata la specie di gran lunga più ampiamente distribuita, mentre la presenza di *Erpobdella octoculata* in quest'area è più limitata di quanto ci si potrebbe aspettare osservando la sua distribuzione nell'Europa Centrale. A causa di alcuni problemi tassonomici irrisolti, il materiale appartenente ai generi *Glossiphonia*, *Piscicola* e *Dina* non ha potuto essere classificato completamente.

**Parole chiave:** Macroinvertebrati bentonici, Irudinei, Acque interne, Distribuzione, Italia nord-orientale.

## Introduction

For this study I obtained a rich collection of Hirudinea from samples taken from running fresh waters all over the region Friuli-Venezia Giulia (Furlanija-Julijska Krajina) in NE Italy, but only a very small number of pond samples were included. Leeches were collected from stones as well as from plants, large and small specimens were equally collected.

The region could be characterized as an alluvial plain of (sub)mediterranean character in its south, while prealpine and alpine in the north where it comprises a part of the Southern Calcareous Alps. In its extreme SE the region includes the north-westernmost sections of the Dinaric karst, i.e. parts of the well-known "classical" Carso or Kras or Karst.

