Updated Check-List of the Recent Foraminifera from the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast

Blagovest K. Temelkov¹, Vassil G. Golemansky², Milcho T. Todorov ²

Abstract: A brief historical review of the investigations on the recent foraminifera from the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast was made. Up to now, a total of 107 species and subspecies, belonging to 56 genera and 32 families of 10 orders, were established in the Bulgarian Black Sea shore. As a result of a taxonomic revision of the reported foraminifera a separate list of their synonyms is given. The habitat distribution of the recent foraminifera in the Bulgarian Black Sea shore is also presented. The widely distributed families, represented by many species are: Hauerinidae (20 spp.), Elphidiidae (15), Rotaliidae (9) and Ellipsolagenidae (8). The most common genera, presented by many species and subspecies are: Quinqueloculina (11), Ammonia (9), Elphidium (6), Cribroelphidium (5) and Fissurina (5). More common and taxonomically interesting Black Sea foraminifera are illustrated by LM and SEM photographs.

Key words: Black Sea, Foraminifera, Check-list, Habitat distribution.

Introduction

The investigations on the diversity, biotopic distribution, biology and ecology of the recent foraminifera from the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast and the related brackish water sources (shoreline lakes, lagoons, river mouths) are still sporadic and incomplete. Chichkoff (1912) published the first notes on the 4 foraminiferal species from the genera Rotalia, Quinqueloculina and Polystomella, one of which was identified at a genus level. Morov and Netchaev (1929) reported the finding of foraminifera from the genus Globigerina in front of the Bulgarian Coastline. Probably these shells were brought accidentally to the Black Sea from the Mediterranean or Aegean seas, because it is known that the species of this genus inhabit seas and oceans with normal salinity (32-38 ‰).

Later the Romanian protozoologist Lepsi (1931) established 2 new benthic foraminiferal species from the genera Ammodiscus and Peneroplis, found in close proximity of the Romanian Coastline.

Valkanov (1936) announced that he had often found shells of recent foraminifera in different brackish water sources (coastline lakes and river estuaries), but his materials were not identified. Caspers (1931) also announced the findings of 3 unknown until then Black Sea foraminifera from the genera Elphidium and Rotalia. The first more detailed attempt for summarizing the data about the faunal diversity of the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast, including its recent foraminiferal fauna, was made by Valkanov.

¹University of Plovdiv, Tsar Assen St. 24, Plovdiv 4000, Bulgaria
²Institute of Zoology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Blvd. Tsar Osvoboditel 1, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria
Fax: (3592) 9888-28-97; e-mail: Golemansky@zoology.bas.bg; mtodorov@zoology.bas.bg