

## FRESHWATER TRICLADS FROM LIGURIA

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The first record of triclads from Ligurian freshwater dates as far back as 1893 when Borelli reported *Dugesia subtentaculata* (presently *Dugesia* sp.) and *Polycelis nigra* from Rapallo. Up to now taxa of all the three families of Tricladida are present in Liguria, viz Dugesiidae (3 gen, 5 sp), Dendrocoelidae (1 gen, 1 sp) and Planariidae (1 gen, 2 sp) (Table 1) (Sanfilippo, 1950; Benazzi & Deri, 1980; Benazzi, 1982 and references therein; De Vries & Benazzi, 1983; De Vries, 1988; Sluys & Benazzi, 1992). All three endemic species are cave-dwelling. Although *Dugesia liguriensis* was only known until recently for the type locality, the present new records from the western Liguria and a recent record from a cave in Piedmont (Stocchino et al., 2005) suggest a wider distribution. The present first record of *D. sicula* is the northernmost of this Pan-Mediterranean species. For the genus *Dugesia* numerous non-identified fissiparous and sexual populations are here recorded along the Ligurian arc. The presence of *Schmidtea polychroa* and of the alloctonous American species *Girardia tigrina*, introduced in Europe in the first half of the last century, are reported for the first time.

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Table 1. Checklist of freshwater Tricladida from Liguria. Endemic species indicated by diamond (◆); alloctonous species indicated by circle (●).

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**Dugesiidae** Ball, 1974; *Dugesia* Girard, 1850; *Dugesia brigantii* De Vries & Benazzi, 1983 ◆; *Dugesia liguriensis* De Vries, 1988; *Dugesia sicula* Lepori, 1948; *Dugesia* sp.; **Girardia** Ball, 1974; *Girardia tigrina* (Girard, 1850) ●; **Schmidtea** Ball, 1974; *Schmidtea polychroa* (Schmidt, 1861) **Dendrocoelidae** Hallez, 1892; **Dendrocoelum** Örsted, 1844; *Dendrocoelum beauchampi* del Papa, 1952 ◆; *Dendrocoelum* cf. *beauchampi*; *Dendrocoelum* sp.; **Planariidae**

Stimpson, 1857; *Polycelis* Ehrenberg, 1831; *Polycelis benazzii* De Beauchamp, 1955 ♦; *Polycelis nigra* (Müller, 1774); *Polycelis* sp.

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