

Inquadramento zoogeografico dell'ittiofauna continentale autoctona nell'ambito della sottoregione euro-mediterranea

On the zoogeography of Italian freshwater fishes in the contest of Euro-Mediterranean region

P.G. BIANCO

Dipartimento di Biologia Via Mezzocannone 6, 60134 Napoli

Summary: *The zoogeography of native fishes in Italy and other peri-Mediterranean countries is investigated by analyzing their original distributions. Present ranges seem to be the final result of several factors as the ecology properties of species (primary, secondary and peripheral ones; cold-water or warm-water, riverine or lacustrine forms) and from palaeoecology and palaeogeography of the area. Main routes of dispersion for primary cold-adapted riverine fishes were probably by river captures along mountains, while warm-water riverine and lacustrine species spread as a result of river confluences in low lands. In Italy, several cold adapted riverine species are shared with the danubian district and are assumed to be of recent origins. Most of endemics, with reduced ranges, and sometimes shared with the western-balkans, belong to the category of warm-water riverine or lacustrine species. Some of these have probably been isolated since Middle Miocene, others penetrated during the Messinian "Lago Mare phase" of the Mediterranean. Modern distribution patterns seem the result of recent events. The Wurm Po extended phase (15-18.000 years ago) played an essential role in dispersion in to Italy and exchanges with the western-Balkan district. However, human interference with fishes, since the Roman Period and the Middle Ages, has obscured original ranges and the faunal composition of every river basin.*