A BRYOZOOLOGICAL BY-PRODUCT OF TOURISM: FIRST RECORD OF *FREDERICELLA SULTANA* (BLUMENBACH, 1779) IN CRETE

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During our recent summer holidays in Crete we had a look at Lake Kourná (Limni Kourná), the only natural freshwater lake of Crete, where we found numerous colonies of *Fredericella sultana* (with typical smooth sessoblasts) on stones and on branches lying in the water (Aug. 17, 2005). Moreover some colonies of *F. sultana* were collected in the artificial lake (reservoir) of Agía (Límni Agía) related to the Keritis riversystem (Aug. 20, 2005). Both lakes are resting areas for migratory birds and well known by ornithologists for their rich avifauna.
Lake Kourna (Crete)

collecting sites (water level low)  
Aug. 17, 2005

1 rocky part of the beach

muddy part of the beach with submerged branches
Reservoir (lake) of Agia (Crete)

collecting sites, Aug. 20, 2005
(water level low)
Discussion

As far as can be judged by the bryozoological literature neither *Fredericella sultana* nor any other freshwater bryozoan have been recorded in Crete (nor in Greece!).

Lake Kourna and the neighbouring Almiros Delta and Georgioupolis Coast constitute one of the «Important Bird Areas (IBA) of Greece», although Lake Kourna is rather touristic.

According to Birdforum.net the Agia Reservoir is «undoubtedly the best wetland on Crete» from a birding point of view. «The large areas of open water, extensive reedbeds and surrounding scrubland attract many species of interest during the breeding season and on passage.»

It is not excluded that the occurrence of *Fredericella sultana* (whose sessoblasts can survive in the guts of waterfowl) may be linked to this rich avifauna, and especially to the migratory species.

References


http://www.birdforum.net

http://www.kreta-impressionen.de/menu/index_west.htm

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