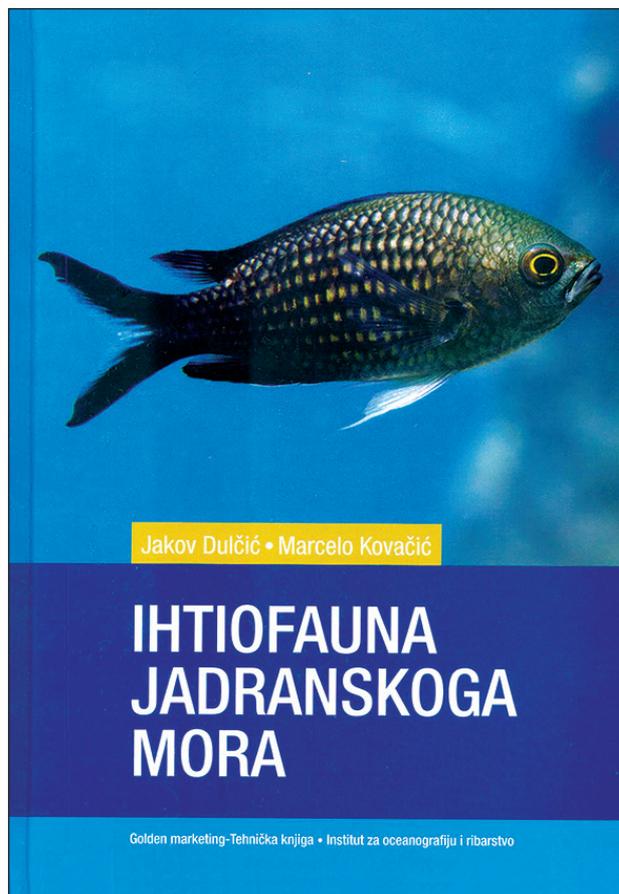


Book review:
ICHTHYOFAUNA OF THE ADRIATIC SEA
Authors: Jakov Dulčić & Marcelo Kovačić
Editor: Golden marketing, Tehnička knjiga,
Institut za oceanografiju i ribarstvo Split.
680 pp.

The Adriatic Sea is the cradle of marine biological and oceanographic sciences. The first research dealing with marine biodiversity was carried out in the 16th century, and continuous research of the Adriatic has been ongoing for the last two hundred years. This is also true for fish fauna, which in the Adriatic Sea has a longer research tradition than in other seas. Nevertheless, knowledge of fish fauna is far from being complete, as many species previously unknown to the Adriatic Sea are commonly recorded, while others are rapidly disappearing. In addition, modern methods, including those involving the aid of SCUBA diving equipment, have confirmed the existence of rare and little-known species of fish that standard ichthyological methods failed to detect. Despite the relatively enviable tradition of exploring life in the Adriatic, there have been surprisingly few monographs devoted to the richness of fish species in this sea. Among the most famous is the monograph by Dr. Tonko Šoljan *Fish of the Adriatic Sea*, an outstanding work in Croatian that was first printed in 1948 and has since appeared in many new editions and been translated into the Italian language as well. The second basic monograph on fish species entitled *Adriatic Ichthyofauna* (1996), again in Croatian, was written by Dr. Ivo Jardas.

This year, a new monograph was published by two renowned Croatian ichthyologists, Dr. Jakov Dulčić and Dr. Marcelo Kovačić. The former outstanding ichthyologist, like Šoljan and Jardas, comes from the Split Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography. Marcelo Kovačić is a curator at the Rijeka Museum of Natural History and a world-renowned expert on the fishes of the family Gobiidae. The book is entitled *Ichthyofauna of the Adriatic Sea* and was written in Croatian. Presenting an updated overview of the fish fauna of the Adriatic Sea, it is, unlike the first two monographs, richly adorned with photographs and drawings making it more suitable for a wider circle of readers. After a short introduction, the authors undertake a historical overview of fish research in the Adriatic and the Mediterranean and a review of biodiversity with special emphasis on fish fauna. They also provide basic information on how to use the book. This chapter is very important, as it presents the basic concepts and highlights the most important criteria for fish

identification as well as anatomical and morphological features to pay attention to when trying to determine the identity of a specimen under investigation. The most extensive chapter, the third, supplies a key for determining the fish families of the Adriatic Sea, simplified and equipped with pictorial material that makes it easier to identify key characters. This chapter presents all the species so far confirmed in the Adriatic Sea. For each species a Croatian, Latin, and English name is provided, as well as its Latin synonyms. The authors then state the total size and in some cases the body weight, describe the species in terms of coloration, ecological and biological characteristics, distribution, importance to humans, status (regarding endangerment), protection measures, and lists key literature related to the species in the Adriatic. Each fish species is presented with a colour photograph – the vast majority stored in formalin or alcohol samples. The order of presentation of the species follows the modern systematics of fish, with the authors providing the key to identifying species within a family (if it consists of more than one species). This is followed by



a glossary of technical terms and abbreviations, and source materials. The book concludes with a factual index of Latin and Croatian names and terms and a brief description of both authors. The book was co-financed by the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education.

This monograph is a modern overview of the Adriatic fish fauna, which takes into account all the new records on the emergence of alien species and those associated with the northward spread of thermophilic species, which have been discovered and described in recent years. In his monograph, Šoljan presented 365 species, Jardas almost fifty years later 407 species; Dulčić and Kovačić describe as many as 444 species of fish in the Adriatic Sea. The key for the determination of fish species is much clearer and more understandable than in the earlier two monographs, which in most cases promises a correct identification to every reader. The book is a 680-page hard cover.

The cost of the book is 320 Croatian kunas (just over 40 euros), making it accessible to the general public as well as experts, all who are interested in exploring the richness of the Adriatic fish fauna, offering good prospects that readers will be able to recognise every species they find in their hands.

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Book review:

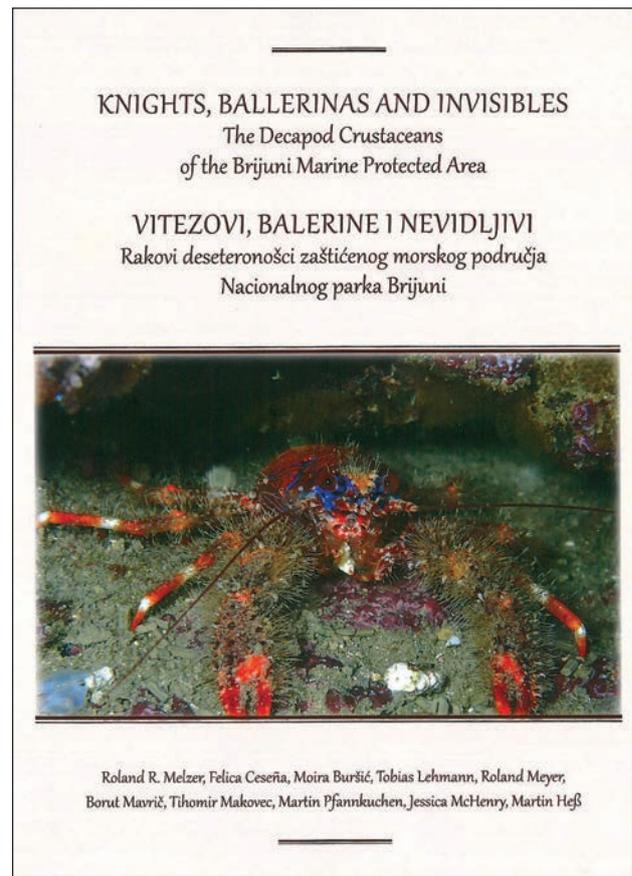
**KNIGHTS, BALLERINAS AND INVISIBLES:
THE DECAPOD CRUSTACEANS OF THE
BRIJUNI MARINE PROTECTED AREA**

Authors: Roland Melzer, Felica Ceseña, Moira Buršić, Tobias Lehmann, Roland Mayer, Borut Mavrič, Tihomir Makovec, Martin Pfanckuchen, Jessica McHenry & Martin Heß

Editor: Javna ustanova Nacionalni park Brijuni, Schwarzprint, 123 pp., 2019.

The book can be purchased for 20 euros by sending mail to: infombp@nib.si

At the end of last year, a monographic work with the poetic title *Knights, Ballerinas and Invisibles – The Decapod Crustaceans of the Brijuni Marine Protected Area* was published by ten researchers: from Germany, Croatia, Austria, Slovenia, and the USA, led by Prof. Roland Melzer. The international research group had been conducting studies on va-



rious aspects of marine biodiversity of the Brijuni National Park (NW Croatia) for many years. The book, which dedicates particular interest to decapods (Crustacea: Decapoda), has 123 pages and is enriched with quality photographs of shrimps, crabs, and other members of this taxonomic group. The way in which the authors present individual groups of decapod crabs is also interesting: we read about knights with strong armours, ballerinas, and ghosts - masters of disguise. The ballerinas are the shrimps, which the authors saw as dancing on the seabed, lobsters are squires, and crabs are dark knights.

The introductory chapter with the definition of decapod crustaceans, description of their body structure, and an evolutionary and systematic review, is followed by an extensive presentation of the species found in Brijuni, which covers the largest part of the publication. In addition to the lavish photographic material (213 colour images), the book is furnished with elegant and extremely elaborate illustrations of the external anatomical features of decapod crustaceans (28 BW and colour images). Higher taxonomical groups are presented in subchapters, each opening with a presentation