

Abstract

Freshwater gastropods (Mollusca: Gastropoda) belong to two traditional taxonomic groups: prosobranchs (Prosobranchia) and pulmonates (Pulmonata). Most of these molluscs are characterized by low vagility. Therefore they usually rely on passive dispersal. Their dispersal vectors are mostly birds and water. Animals can transport snails both externally and internally. Direct methods (capture.mark.recapture, radio - tracking) and genetic methods could be used to study dispersal. For genetic studies can be used many type of molecular markers, but the recently most popular are microsatellites. According to recent studies, the dispersal of freshwater gastropods is probably not as frequent and wide - spread as assumed before.

Key words: freshwater snails, dispersal, dispersal vectors, capture - mark - recapture, molecular markers, population genetics