Abstract:

This thesis focuses on the genetical and morphological diversity of plaited door snail (Cochlodina laminata). While small distribution ranges are typical for most species belonging to genus Cochlodina, the distribution range of C. laminata covers most of the European continent, except for its coolest and warmest parts. It has been previously suggested that this species might in fact be a complex of several species and large genetical as well as morphological diversity has been mentioned - however, yet undescribed - in previous studies. Sequences of two mitochondrial genes were used (16S rDNA, COI) and thirteen morphological characteristics have been assessed to investigate this diversity. I discovered that the current concept of C. laminata as a species is not in accordance with the discovered genetical nor morphological variability. The original species C. laminata/C. dubiosa form a common species complex and also interpretation of C. fimbriata will need to be assessed in more detail in the future. Other Central European species are valid species.