

## ***Niphargus echion*, a new species of amphipod (Crustacea Amphipoda, Niphargidae) from Istra, Croatia**

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### **Abstract**

A new species of the freshwater subterranean amphipod genus *Niphargus* Schiödte, 1849 (Crustacea Amphipoda, fam. Niphargidae), *N. echion*, n. sp., is described and figured from the cave Pliškovićeve jama near Šikuti village, Istra (Croatia), and its taxonomic position within the genus *Niphargus* is discussed.

**Key words:** taxonomy, cave, Crustacea, Amphipoda, *Niphargus*, Croatia

### **Introduction**

The subterranean and epigeal amphipod fauna of the Istra peninsula (northwest part of the Balkan peninsula) has been investigated by various scientists during the last century, with several genera and species mentioned or described.

Schäferna (1922) recorded the epigeal species *Gammarus spinicaudatus* Schäferna, 1922 (= *G. balcanicus* Schäferna, 1922) from Istra (torrent Bogliunšica near Čepić Lake and spring in Kožljak (= Cosliaco) on Čepić Lake). Later *G. spinicaudatus* was also collected from Istra and vicinity by S. Karaman (1931) and G. Karaman (1974). Regarding the subterranean taxa, the first record of *Niphargus* from this region dates from 1922, when Schäferna published data on “*Niphargus tatrensis* Wrzes.(?)” from springs at an altitude over 1000 m on Učka Mt. (= Monte Maggiore, Istra), though we have not seen Schäferna’s material for confirmation.

Schellenberg (1933a) described a new subspecies, *Niphargus skopljensis hebereri* (= *Niphargus hebereri*), from Rovinj, and other records from the same locality were mentioned later (Schellenberg 1933b, 1935, 1936; D’Ancona 1942; S. Karaman 1943,