



ЗАМЕТКА

Finds of *Branchinella spinosa* (Anostraca, Thamnocephalidae) in the Salt Lakes of the Crimean Peninsula (Ukraine) [О находках *Branchinella spinosa* (Anostraca, Thamnocephalidae) в соленых озерах Крымского полуострова (Украина)]. — Originally described from the salt waters near Odessa (Ukraine), the halophilic species *Branchinella spinosa* (H. Milne Edwards, 1840) is known from inland and coastal salt waters of the Mediterranean area (Mura et al., 1999 etc.), Botswana (Brtek, 1967), Afghanistan (Brtek, 1974) and Saudi Arabia (ThiCry, 1996). The species was found several times in salt lakes of the Crimean Peninsula in XIX — beginning of XX century (Fedchenko, 1870; Kulagin, 1888; Гаевская, 1916). However, later it has not been observed there. Repeatedly, in Ukraine species was found in 1988 in small temporary lakes with low salinity (1.5–9.5‰) in the Black Sea Nature Reserve (Vekhoff, 1990). Two males of 2.0 and 2.1 mm in size we found in 2001 in the Bakals'ke lake of 80–85‰ salinity. Further study of material collected in 1988 revealed *B. spinosa* also in the Achi and Akhtash's'ke lakes. Resting eggs of *Branchinella* were found in Crimean lakes in 2004–2006 (Litvinchuk et al., 2007). The salinity maximum we observed where *B. spinosa* survived is 85‰. Populations of this species are known to show different salinity tolerance depending on geographical locality (Alonso, 1990; Mura, 1993). Thus, the previously known maximum was 70‰ and it was recorded in ponds on Sardinia (Mura, 1993). According to our observations in 1988, 2000–2007, the species is not in an active stage every year in the same lake. Populations could remain in diapausing stage as resting eggs, without hatching even when the conditions look to be favorable. Possibly, diapausing eggs of *Branchinella*, such as of *Artemia*, might be dispersed from lake to lake by water birds. The biology, ecology and distribution of this species in Ukraine deserve further studies. — N. V. Shadrin, Yu. A. Zagorodnya (Institute of the Biology of the Southern Seas, Sevastopol), L. L. Nagorskaya (Institute of Zoology, Minsk), L. Samchyshyna (Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, Kyiv).