

**Book review: POLŽI ZAŠKRGARJI
SLOVENSKEGA MORJA**

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Well, at the beginning I can just say: "Wow, they did it again. Another one...". There is a lot to like about this book. As a teacher in marine science at the university I always try to find a good scientific (and popular) book with lot of nice photos of Adriatic (or Mediterranean) species that will be useful for my students. Now I find another one. The significance of biological stations (like Marine Biology Station Piran) is perhaps best appreciated when you have worked and researched at the seaside. The authors of this book emphasise the role of Piran Biological Station in this respect, which opens up a full range of possibilities for research and also teaching. I have to admit that I envy them. Quite a lot.

The sea slugs (Opisthobranchia) have shifted from mechanical to chemical defence; some are herbivores, some use their food to harness solar energy, others are predators that gain stinging cells and poisonous compounds from their food. This book records and illustrates over 140 species of the opisthobranch fauna of Slovenian Sea. The majority of the species in the book are nudibranchs, but there is also a good coverage of the other major orders (like Anaspidea). The book contains 5 main chapters about Opisthobranchia, including a small chapter about Marine Biology Station Piran. Following the introduction, the chapters are grouped into sections, first few about taxonomy, morphology and ecology of Opisthobranchia, than with the chapter on biodiversity of Opisthobranchia in Slovenian part of the Adriatic Sea, following the overview of opisthobranch species from Slovenian Sea. The book ends with a Literature and extensive Index sections. The Introduction sets a nice framework with some necessary definitions about these marine animals. First come general characteristics of the Opisthobranchia and next, characteristics by which sea slugs differ from other similar marine organisms. Then a broad, panoramic view of sea slugs orders from Slovenian Sea, from the primitive to the more advanced, is presented, including both the more abundant and some remote ones of special interest. The authors wrote about marine animals they knew well, and, in most chapters, provided a excellent reference list of previous work and studies in that field.

This richly illustrated book presents the diversity of opisthobranch sea slugs. By integrating aspects of morphology, ecology and behaviour, it describes how each group copes with problems of defence, locomotion, nutrition and reproduction. The text, in which scientific terms are accompanied by parallel common ones, is accompanied by 51 illustrations, about 480 illustrations

and photos in colour and more than 150 maps of species findings. Finally, the illustrations and colour photos are stunning and beautiful.

The book covers another aspect, namely that marine biology is necessarily international. Accordingly, the authors perfectly describe the possible new species, invasive ones, touching the intrinsic relationships of a global research community, yielding a plethora of questions on marine ecosystems. People interested in the field of marine invertebrate research can easily identify with the stories told here. This book is not only directed towards marine scientists, but also targets the general public, particularly those readers with interests in the marine life and marine ecology. Detailed references and an extensive index immensely expand the horizon of the book.

I highly recommend this book. This excellent book is not only full of beautiful photographs, but full of information as well. It covers basic classification of sea slugs and then goes on to discuss many areas of biology and natural history, including how and what they eat, defence, reproduction, colour etc. This is a valuable addition to your 'sea slug library' filling in the many areas of opisthobranch biology which are missing, or tantalisingly brief, in most nudibranch colour faunal guides. This comprehensive, insightful portrait of sea slugs will appeal to marine biologists, zoology lecturers and



students, biology teachers, field-school instructors, nature reserve wardens and especially amateur naturalists. Outing yourself as a marine biologist almost invariably elicits a lament about the state of the world's oceans (or seas) from those around you. This book provides the foundation for any more insightful response about the beauty of marine life. It will inject a fresh breeze into my course on marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea.

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Book review: ATLAS PTICA ISTRE

avtorja: Gordan Lukač & Roberto Stelko
Natura historica, 2016, 167 str.

Pred kratkim mi je v roke prišla lično izdelana monografija o pticah Istre. Knjige sem se zelo razveselil, saj ne poznam veliko monografskih del o naravni dediščini istrskega polotoka, še posebej pa ne o pticah. Po mojem mnenju je namreč polotok Istra obljubljen dežela za ornitologe. Gre za prehodni pas med celinskim, submediteranskim in mediteranskim okoljem, poleg tega pa se nadmorska višina od morske obale na zahodu

do kraškega roba proti vzhodu postopno zvišuje. Še posebej markantna je planota Čičarija, ki v sebi skriva še mnoga neodkrita čudesa narave, in masiv Učke s planinskimi vrhovi krepko nad 1000 m nadmorske višine. Pestra množica različnih habitatnih tipov, ki se pojavlja v pretežno naravnem in deloma ruralnem okolju, nudi gnezditvene niše za mnoge vrste ptic. Ne nazadnje dajejo pečat polotoku tudi reke kot so Dragonja, Mirna in Raša, ki so si urezale strugo v flišnato zaledje in ustvarile posebna življenjska okolja.

V uvodnem delu avtorja razlagata, kako je do nastanka atlasa prišlo, podajata zgodovinski pregled raziskovanja ptic na istrskem polotoku in opisujeta ekološke danosti. Sledi poglavje o metodologiji, kjer izvemo katere kriterije za opredelitev razširjenosti vrst, sezonskega statusa in statusa gnezditve sta uporabljala. V največji meri se avtorja naslanjata na obdobje rednega popisovanja ptic med leti 1985 do 2005, kjer sta popisovala vrste na kvadrantih 10 x 10 km. Opravila sta skoraj 3000 terenskih popisov ptic na obravnavanem območju na 52 kvadrantih. Na podlagi lastnih opazovanj in objavljenih literaturnih podatkov sta zabeležila 325 ptičjih vrst, od katerih jih za 300 prikazujeta zemljevide razširjenosti.

Osrednji in največji del ornitološkega atlasa predstavljajo podatki o vrstah, ugotovljenih na hrvaškem delu istrskega polotoka. Velika večina vrst je predstavljena z lično fotografijo in zemljevidom razširjenosti z označe-

