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NEW ITEMS OF THE COLLECTION „DR. HILARIUS MITREA” DISCOVERED IN THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY FROM VIENNA

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Abstract. Marinescu (1971) mentioned the presence of some items in the collections of the Museum of Natural History of Vienna (Austria), donated by the physician Hilarius Mitrea, for the first time. We complete this information with new data regarding eight mollusc specimens, three crustaceans and a fish.

Résumé. Marinescu (1971) mentionne pour la première fois l'existence, dans les collections du Muséum d'Histoire naturelle de Vienne (Autriche), de pièces qui proviennent de l'Indonésie et ont été données par le médecin Hilarius Mitrea. On signale à présent un nouveau matériel: huit exemplaires de Mollusques, trois de Crustacés et un poisson.

Key words: Hilarius Mitrea, Indonesian collection, Vienna, donation.

INTRODUCTION

On the physician's of Răşinari extraordinary collection, Hilarius Mitrea, gathered in Indonesia at the end of the 19th century there were written papers by Andrei (2004), Marinescu (1971), Marinescu & Andrei (1980), Marinescu & Ionescu-Konnerth (1985), Marinescu & Rojancovski (the catalogue of the fish collection, 1971; the catalogue of the rest of the collection, 1972), Murariu (2006), Petrescu A. (catalogue of the bird collection brought by Mitrea from Kalimantan, 2001) and Petrescu I. (catalogue of the crustacean collection, 2008).

In the country where he lived for 25 years, as a medical officer of the colonial Dutch army, Mitrea succeeded in gathering 1,500 specimens of invertebrate and vertebrate animals, as it results from the documents, which he donated to „Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History of Bucharest (Bucureşti) (Pop, 1968; Marinescu & Rojancovski, 1972).

Marinescu (1971) is the only one who was interested in the existence of some eventual items in the collections of „Naturhistorisches Museum” of Vienna (NHMW). He succeeded in discovering three fish species collected by Hilarius Mitrea from Kalimantan and Muntok (Bangka Island, East to Sumatra) and donated to this museum: *Barbus (Capoeta) sumatranus* (Family Cyprinidae) (Kalimantan, 1882, NHMW 64637), *Bagrithys hypselopterus* (Family Bagridae) (Moeara Teweh, Kalimantan, 1883, NHMW 47531), *Arius sagor* (Family Ariidae) (Muntok, 1895, NHMW 48152). They entered the situation of the respective collection in

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1882, 1883 and 1895, dates when Hilarius Mitrea was in Vienna. The specified species are not present in the collections of the Museum of Bucharest (MGAB).

Hilarius Mitrea's contacts with the Imperial Museum of Vienna date since 1881 (when he came for the first time in Europe with the Indonesian collections), when he asked for the cooperation with Dr. Franz Steindachner, head of the Department of Zoology that time (director of the Museum since 1898), well-known specialist in the fish and reptile field, who helped him to the material identification and who became a very close friend (according to Marinescu's (1971) and Pop's (1968) comments).

MATERIAL AND METHOD

By Dr. Peter Dworschak's kindness (crustaceans) from the Department of Invertebrates and of his colleagues, Anita Eschner, Elisabeth Belicic (molluscs) and Dr. Helmut Wellendorf (fish) from „Naturhistorisches Museum” of Vienna, we found out that in their collections also there are other items of Hilarius Mitrea's collection donated to the Museum of Vienna as a gratitude for the identification of the Indonesian material by Steindachner and by other colleagues of him, when he returned in Europe: molluscs, crustaceans and fish. Investigating the collection registers, the registers of the acquisitions of the old collections (Mitrea's items were not really acquired by the Museum of Vienna but received as a donation) new data on the situation of the material brought by Mitrea from Indonesia for Vienna were put at my disposal.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this way four entrances were discovered in the mollusc collection, three snail and five shell species, three in the crustacean one and a single entrance in the ichthyologic one.

Phylum Mollusca
Class Gastropoda
Family Pachychilidae

Pseudopotamis (Melania) sp.

Collection number: NHMW 23689.

Material: a dry specimen (shell).

Locality: Palembang.

Family Neritidae
Genus *Neritina* Lamarck, 1816

Neritina aculeata (Gmelin, 1791)

Collection number: NHMW 23692.

Material: two dry specimens (shells).

Locality: Palembang.

Class Bivalvia
Family Veneridae

Anomalocardia sp.

Collection number: NHMW 23690.
Material: three dry specimens (shells).
Locality: Palembang.

Collection number: NHMW 23691.
Material: two specimens in alcohol.
Locality: Palembang.

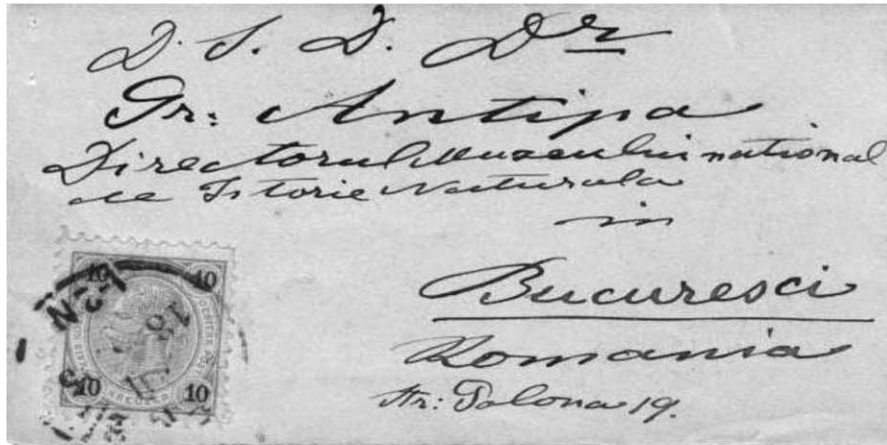
Remarks

It is the first mention of the mollusc specimens collected by Dr. Hilarius Mitrea from Indonesia. The material from Vienna was received and identified by Dr. Rudolf Sturany, that time the specialist in molluscs of that museum. Donation was mentioned by Steindachner in the museum journal, in 1897 (three species with eight specimens donated in 1896) (Steindachner, 1897). “Grigore Antipa” Museum got a more valuable material, according to the letters sent by Mitrea from Vienna, in the 18th of June 1895, to Grigore Antipa (Fig. 1) (Viena III B, Hauptstrasse N. 40, „Hotel Rothen Hahn” – În curând cuget a putea trimite objectele pentru muzeu. S-au determinat până acum ± 200 de soiuri de pești, șerpi, etc. Scoicile o să le trimit nederminate. Multe salutări de la dr. H. Mitrea [Soon, I think I shall be able to send the objects for the museum. Till now, around 200 species of fish, snakes, etc. have been identified. I send the shells unidentified. Best regards from Dr. H. Mitrea]) and in the 3rd of July 1895 to the Minister of the Public Education and Culture. Among others this material consisted in five boxes with snails (molluscs) from Molucce (Fig. 2), as Mitrea’s specification, material remained unknown to the specialists of the Museum of Bucharest, possibly lost along time (Marinescu & Rojancovski, 1972).

Phylum Arthropoda
Class Crustacea
Order Decapoda
Family Palaemonidae

Macrobrachium idae (Heller, 1862)
syn. *Palaemon (Eupalaemon) Idae* Heller

Collection number: NHMW 1492.
Material: a specimen in alcohol, on the inner label: “Palembang, 1895. I. 60, Dr. Mitrea don.”
Locality: Palembang, Sumatra.
Remarks: species previously reported from Java (Martens, 1868, in Ortman, 1891) and from Borneo (Heller, 1862; Ortmann, 1891).



Vienne III^e Bd. Hauptstrasse
N. 40. "Hotel rothen Flahn"
18 Junie 1895
In curend ungetase putea
trimite obiectele pentru
muzeu. Sau determini
nat pentru suma ± 200,-
de soiri ale pesti, serpi
etc.

Twice o se la trimis re-
ce terminate.
Multe voluntari ale la
Dr. H. Mitrea
dirigirender Militärarzt a. D.
der Nederl. Armee in Ost-Indien.

Fig. 1 – Hilarius Mitrea's letter to Grigore Antipa (envelop and visiting card) (Archive of "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History).

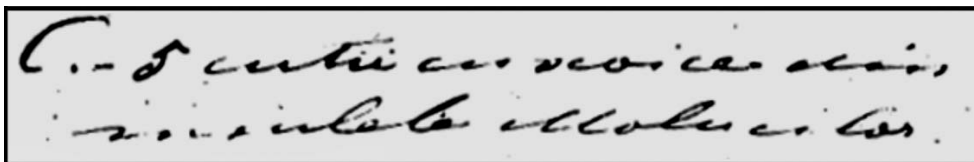


Fig. 2 – Fragment of the letter of the 3rd of July 1895 referring to the molluscs donated to the Museum of Bucharest (Archive of “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History).

Macrobrachium rosenbergii (de Man, 1879)

syn. *Palaemon carcinus* F.

Collection number: NHMW 547.

Material: a specimen in alcohol, on the inner label: “Makassar, 1895. I. 61, Dr. Mitrea don.”

Locality: Makassar (Celebes=Sulawesi).

Remarks: for the time being reported from Palembang, Java, Borneo, Celebes (Makassar) and Bali (de Man, 1879; Martens, 1868, in Ortmann, 1891).

Family Ocypodidae

Macrophthalmus definitus Adams et White, 1848

Collection number: NHMW 3824.

Material: a specimen in alcohol.

Locality: Palembang (Sumatra).

Remarks: species described from Philippines (Adams & White, 1848).

Remarks

Crustacean material was received and identified by Carl Koelbel, curator of the crustacean collection that time (1895).

On the labels it is written the entrance year (donation), on all of them from 1895, specimens belonging to the first lot with the current number 60 and 61. Crab species is not specified in the acquisition register; it was described from Philippines, reported from Indonesia late, in 1910, by Rathbun, from Makassar, Sulawesi (1910).

Two species and three specimens are mentioned as donations made in 1895 (without the species names) by Hauer in *Annalen des k. k. Naturhistorischen Hofmuseums* (Hauer, 1896).

A larger number of species and specimens (10 species with 42 specimens) were donated by Mitrea to “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History (Petrescu I., 2008) (*Macrophthalmus definitus* is not present in the collections from Bucharest).

Class

Superorder Teleostei

Order Perciformes

Family Gobiidae

Glossogobius giuris (Hamilton, 1822)

syn. *Gobius giuris* Hamilton, 1822

Collection number: absent.

Material: one specimen, on the label: “Aro, Dr. Mitrea, 1894”.

Locality: Aro (Aru Archipelago).

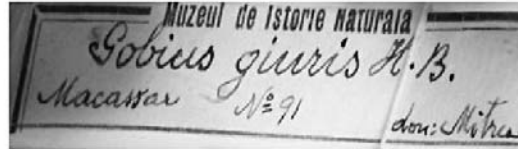


Fig. 3 – *Glossogobius giurinus* (Hamilton, 1822) Makassar no 91 coll. No MGAB 6746/512 (Ihtio – 3097).

Remarks

Three specimens of this species can be found in the fish collection of “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History of Bucharest, collected only from Celebes Island (= Sulawesi) and Makassar (Sulawesi) (no col. 6746/512, 6746/514 and 6746/515); the items from “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History were collected during the last part of Dr. Hilarius Mitrea’s staying in Indonesia, between 1890 and 1893, and , probably sent in 1895, together with the other animals and ethnographical items (Marinescu & Rojancovski, 1972). Collecting place of the specimen from Vienna, from the Aru Archipelago, placed to South-west of the New Guinea Island, in the Banda Sea, is unknown up to now as the collecting place of the zoological items of Mitrea.

As regards the entrance dates of the items, some speculations can be made, a very few sure written information being available, Hilarius Mitrea not letting memorable notes. The date when the mollusc specimens entered might be confused because, as yet, there is no proof that he was in Vienna in 1896; but the

specification of the figure „III” refers to the lot (donation) number, raising the question upon the third donation in Vienna, if it existed (of molluscs or of other animals ?), from Mitrea. Would existed the third one also in Bucharest as Pop presumed (1968) ? Anyway, all molluscs were collected from the same place, Palembang, Sumatra, being donated in 1894. As regards crustaceans, things are clearer, probably being collected in the last but one Mitrea’s expedition in Indonesia; it is known that in 1890 Mitrea was in Celebes Island (now Sulawesi) where there is locality Makassar; the other species are from Palembang. But, the fish species originates from an unknown place to the Mitrea’s historiographers, from Aru Archipelago, from the SW of New Guinea Island. It is presumed that, here, Mitrea made several trips for catching birds (there are only the items from the Museum of Bucharest, Western Crowned Pigeon and birds of Paradise; as a matter

of fact there is no list of Mitrea's donation which includes these birds; in Vienna reptiles, birds, mammals and ethnographic items were not discovered, yet) and for gathering ethnographic objects (Petrescu A., 2001).

At over 125 years since his first donation to the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History and for more than 100 years since his death (in 1904), Hilarius Mitrea's personality continues to fascinate and to reveal new aspects of his passions. He still is the most important donor of Bucharest Museum.

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NOI PIESE DIN COLECȚIA „DR. HILARIUS MITREA” DESCOPERITE LA MUZEUL DE ISTORIE NATURALĂ DIN VIENA

REZUMAT

În colecțiile Muzeului de Istorie Naturală din Viena au fost identificate trei specii de pești donați de dr. Hilarius Mitrea din Indonezia, menționați pentru prima dată de Marinescu (1971).

Noi cercetări au semnalat și alte materiale: opt exemplare de moluște, trei de gasteropode și cinci de bivalve; trei de crustacee (două specii de crevete și un crab) și o specie de pește.

Donația lui Hilarius Mitrea către muzeul din Viena, ca mulțumire pentru determinarea materialelor aduse din Indonezia (din care cea mai mare parte a fost donată muzeului din București) de către directorul secției de zoologie, dr. Franz Steindachner și de către colegii săi, a fost menționată și în revista muzeului din Viena (doar moluștele și crustaceele, 1896 și 1897). Speciile de pești nu apar în această revistă.

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