

***Aphanius almiriensis*: an established and breeding population in Moustos wetland**

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Aphanius almiriensis (Almyri Toothcarp) is an endemic species of the E. Peloponnese and is considered as Critically Endangered in The Red Data Book of Threatened Animals of Greece. Its type locality refers to two springs: Kato Almyri (Saronikos Gulf) and Meligou (Astros Kinourias). The species is considered very rare or even extinct at K. Almyri while at Meligou is considered to survive in the adjacent lagoons (Moustos wetland) without any further knowledge available. The aim of the present study was to provide information on the presence, the status and biology of the species in Moustos wetland. Samples were collected on a seasonal basis from June 2014 to April 2015 in Moustos wetland using a beach seine and a hand net. Due to its conservation status along with the limited size of its population, material collection was based solely on non-lethal methods and thus, individuals were returned to the water. Species abundance and individuals' total length (0.1 mm) were recorded. Sex was determined macroscopically. Almyri Toothcarp is found in high abundances (387 individuals) and the population composed of individuals from 18 mm (YOY) to 52.3 mm (female). Sexually matured males and females were both sampled. The results of the current study indicate the existence of an established and breeding population in Moustos wetland. This outcome is of great importance for the survival of the species given that ecosystem management efforts can be implemented to protect its vulnerable remaining population.