

FRAGMENTA FAUNISTICA

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Jadwiga BARGA-WIĘCŁAWSKA

**The occurrence of a rare snail *Helicigona laticida* (LINNAEUS, 1758)
(Gastropoda, Helicidae) in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains**
[With 2 figures]

Abstract: The population of the vulnerable species of snail *Helicigona laticida* (LINNAEUS, 1758) (V) was found in Bobrza, in the north-western part of the Holy Cross Mts. The species inhabits ruins of a high class monument of metallurgy industry by the Bobrza river. This locality is situated at the eastern part of the species range.

Key words: snail, vulnerable species, new locality, environment of ruins, The Świętokrzyskie Mountains, Poland

Authors' address: Wyższa Szkoła Pedagogiczna im. Jana Kochanowskiego, Instytut Biologii, ul. Konopnickiej 15, 25-406 Kielce, Poland

Helicigona laticida (LINNAEUS, 1758) (Fig. 1) is a rare species in Poland. The species was considered as being under the threat of extinction and in some regions of Poland even as extinct (RIEDEL 1988). In Red list of threatened animals in Poland (WIKTOR, RIEDEL 1992) this species was included into the category "V" (vulnerable species). It embraces animals gradually extincting that in the nearest future can reach category of endangered species.

Helicigona laticida (L.) is a species of West and central Europe. Its occurrence ranges from Portuguese to central England and Southern Scandinavia. In the East it reaches Poland, Moravia and the southern part the Baltic Sea and Latvia (KERNEY, CAMERON, JUNGBLUTH 1983).

This snail lives among rocks, in ruins and old walls, as well as on stems of humid deciduous forests. In mountains the snail reaches 1600 m a.s.l. In Poland, the range of this species covers mainly north-western and south-western regions (DROZDOWSKI 1964) and the Kraków-Częstochowa Upland.

Two most southern localities of the snail are found in Bołęcin and Brodła in the area of the Chrzanów Region (MAZARAKI 1979, S. W. ALEXANDROWICZ 1996).



Fig. 1. *Helicigona lapicida* (L.) specimen from the locality in Bobrza. Fot. K. Markowska.

In the area of the Holy Cross Mts. the species was found by ŚLÓRSKI (1876) in Łysa Góra, by POLIŃSKI (1924) in Chęciny and by PIECHOCKI (1981) in Góra Zelejowa (Zelejowa Mt.). During long research of malacofauna in the Holy Cross Mts. carried out by PIECHOCKI (1981) there were found only empty shells of the species among rocks of the Zelejowa Mt. what gave a ground for recognising it as an extincting species in the investigated area.

The new locality of this species was found in Bobrza (Fig. 2) in the north-western part of the Holy Cross Mts. The locality is important for two reasons: firstly, it is the most eastern locality in the area of Poland; secondly, the species occurs here in great numbers. *Helicigona lapicida* (L.) lives in shrubs at the Bobrza river and on a resistance wall near the river, as well as on the slope above the river in ruins of the coal-square, which is a part of monument of the old-Polish metallurgy complex. The locality is in the DB-64 square of international co-ordinates. The same locality is numerously inhabited *Arianta arbustorum* (LINNAEUS, 1758) rare species in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains described by the author from the area of Kielce (BARGA-WIĘCŁAWSKA 1990).

Conditions suitable for snails are provided by adequate humidity and accessible calcium washed out from old walls. All specimens of *Helicigona*

lapicida (L.) from Bobrza were measured: width of the shells varied between 14,7 and 16,5 mm and height between 6,2 and 6,8 mm.

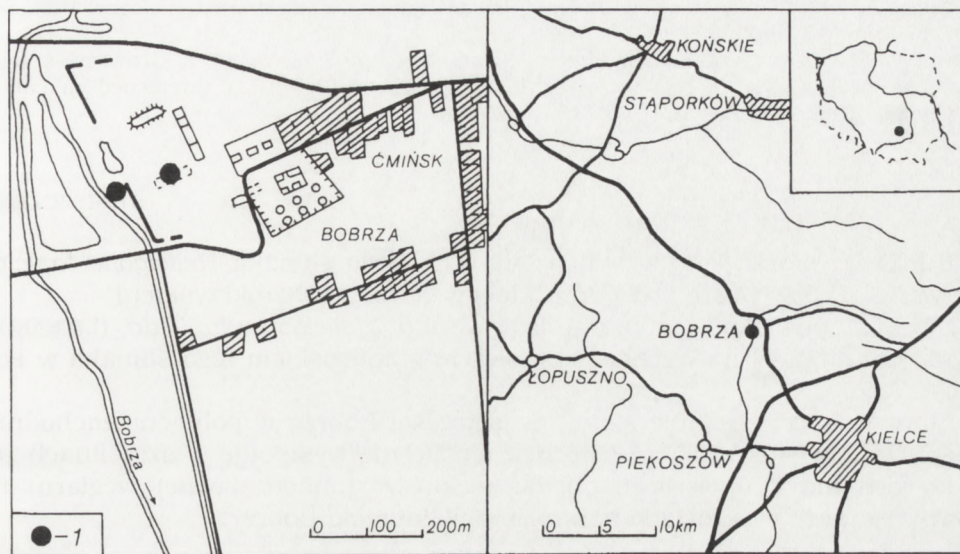


Fig. 2. The locality of *Helicigona lapicida* (L.) occurrence in Bobrza. 1 – occurrence around a resistance wall and in coal-square ruins.

The research on malacofauna showed that old constructions are refuges for land snails assemblages (S. W. ALEXANDROWICZ 1995, MALTZ 1996, BARGA-WIĘCŁAWSKA 1997) what qualify them not only as places of heritage but also as nature preserving objects.

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Poland). ZOPIZN, Kraków, 31–39.

STRESZCZENIE

[Tytuł: Nowe stanowisko występowania rzadkiego ślimaka *Helicigona lapicida* (LINNAEUS, 1758) (*Gastropoda, Helicidae*) w Górach Świętokrzyskich]

Nowe stanowisko występowania gatunku *Helicigona lapicida* (LINNAEUS, 1758) jest najdalej na wschód wysuniętym stanowiskiem tego ślimaka w Polsce.

Stanowisko to znajduje się w miejscowości Bobrza w północno-zachodniej części Gór Świętokrzyskich. Gatunek ten licznie występuje w szczelinach żabkowego muru oporowego opodal rzeki, w ruinach dawnej węglarni na skarpie, a także w zaroślach nad rozlewiskiem rzeki Bobrzy.