Expansion of the exotic unionid *Sinanodonta woodiana* in low Ter River flood plain (Catalonia).

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**AREA OF STUDY**

Low Ter River floodplain is a highly transformed landscape, nowadays under a high human pressure: intensive agriculture, highly irrigated with water diverted from the river. Nevertheless some freshwater ecosystems remain, mainly old channels and the main course of Ter River, although all of them have highly regulated flows.

**UNIONIDS COMUNITY**

In the area, 3 native species have been cited. Moreover, the exotic *Sinanodonta woodiana*, has also been detected.

**METHODOLOGY**

From 2010 to 2014 a thorough freshwater bivalves prospection campaign was performed in the alluvial plain of lower Ter, including the river and secondary water masses, mainly irrigation channels. Samplings were done by manual prospection on the river bed bottom. A total of 120 sampling stations has been surveyed in this alluvial plain.

**RESULTS**

Status of native species is precarious, with populations intensely fragmented, often low densities, and dominated by old specimens due to lack of recruitment. This situation could be attributable to the severe rarefaction of native fish species, since even they become absent in some areas.

In contrast, the invasive *S. woodiana* is expanding and occupies already the whole alluvial plain and the lower course of the Ter river, where it is very abundant. Moreover, it presents a well-structured global population in the area, and a regular recruitment can be observed everywhere, thanks to the fact that several exotic fish species, now abundant in the area, are potential hosts to it.

*S. woodiana* appeared in most of the surveyed localities (78%), and was present in all the types of water bodies surveyed. In 16 % of the localities it was the uninc unionoid found, and it was present in most of the localities were other unionoid species were present (97%). Specimens of this species found alive constituted the 72 % of the total of alive unionoids collected during the sampling campaigns.