

MIGRATORY ABILITY OF ORCONECTES LIMOSUS THROUGH A FISHPASS AND NOTES ON ITS OCCURRENCE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



The occurrence of the spiny-cheek crayfish in the Czech Republic was first reported in the 1980's in the Elbe River and is a result of its upstream migration from Germany. This study confirms that this species occurs in many other localities across the Czech Republic. Its migration ability was experimentally studied at a thirty-chambers fishpass located at a hydroelectric power station in the Elbe River. Group-marked crayfish were placed into 3 selected chambers. Their up- and downstream movement was then registered for 30 min after crayfish stocking. We found that a large portion of the experimental crayfish was passively carried along the stream and was caught in the lowest chamber. The movement of crayfish against the water current towards the higher-positioned chambers was not recorded. However, crayfish showed to have a high ability to hold their position in a strong water flow. Overall, $56.7 \pm 9.43\%$, $6.7 \pm 9.43\%$ and $3.3 \pm 4.71\%$ of crayfish remained in the chamber of insertion and $23.3 \pm 4.71\%$, $30.0 \pm 14.14\%$ and $26.7 \pm 17.00\%$ of crayfish migrated to the lower-positioned chambers.

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