Environmental Engineering and Management Journal xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
http://www.eemj.icpm.tuiasi.ro/; http://www.eemj.eu

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DEVELOPMENT OF A WEB-BASED IDENTIFICATION KEY TO FRESHWATER FISHES OF GREECE

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Abstract

An identification key is a tool for scientists of various disciplines for identifying organisms and finding information about them. Identification keys for fish species have various crucial applications, including in research, education, and policy making, for the purpose of promoting the sustainable management of aquatic ecosystems. The goal of this work was the design and development of an innovative web-based identification key to freshwater fishes of Greece, with the aim of providing a valid and user-friendly tool. More specifically, it includes the 162 known species of the fish fauna of Greek inland waters, with information-rich material. A comprehensive literature search was conducted for the construction of the dichotomous identification key, and the implementation of the most up-to-date taxonomic changes in them. The application was designed to be efficient, easy-to-use, and functional. Its main advantages include navigation and search tools, as well as the accessibility from any device with an internet connection. Therefore, access is possible under any circumstances, such as in classrooms, laboratories or in the field. This application can be used by researchers, teaching staff, students, public bodies, environmental organizations, and anyone involved in inland fish fauna related issues.

Key words: freshwater fishes, Greece, identification key, web application

Received: November, 2023; Revised final: September, 2024; Accepted: November, 2024

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