

Mission statement

The Cave Invertebrate Specialist Group (CISG) is a global network of experts working on organisms associated with karst and caves. Our goals are to contribute to increasing knowledge of these animals and plants, which are extremely rich in narrow endemics, and to promote conservation action through red listing, mostly focused on species under threats, such as limestone quarrying or water pollution.

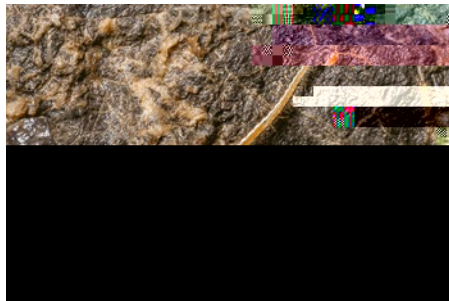
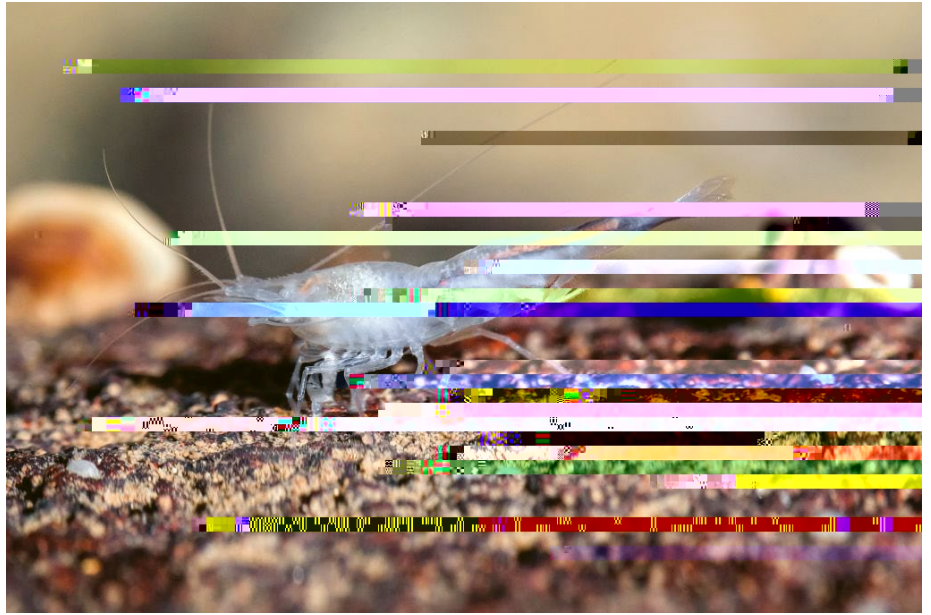
Projected impact 2021–2025

Our activity will be progressively and significantly redirected towards more conservation-relevant species and sites, rather than towards multiple red listing of species not associated with clear conservation issues. We delivered a communication on this re-orientation at the Biospeleological Society Congress, held in Romania in July 2022. In parallel, we are discussing special features of subterranean animal assessments, as they strongly differ from surface species in many important respects; we hope that this will impact positively the way they are assessed in the near future. We also expect it will have a real impact on conservation efficiency by targeting as a priority the species most at risk on critical sites.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Upgrade the Brazilian cave species from national to global IUCN Red List



Hadzinia

C. jalzici and *C. mulaomerovici* should not be available according to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999, 2012). Therefore, the present note serves to validate the names *C. jalzici* and *C. mulaomerovici* by fulfilling the ICZN conditions for nomenclatural availability. Reference: Morton, B. and Bilandžija, H. (2023). 'Nomenclatural validation of two extant *Conger* species, *C. jalzici* and *C. mulaomerovici* (Bivalvia: Dreissenidae) from the caves of the Dinaric karst'. *Nat. Croat.*, Vol. 32, No. 2, 439-444, Zagreb.

T-016 C. . le e a . e . . e . . . f . . g . bi ic i . e . eb . a e . . f S . alia. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: The assessments of stygobiotic invertebrates from Somalia's wells have been created in SIS and are currently under internal review. The assessments are expected to be finished before the end of 2024.

Research activities

T-002 C . . le e gl . bal Red Li . a . e . . e . . . f 20 ca e . . ecie . f . Ma . . Ka . . . S . h S la e . i . l . d . . e . ia. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 0

Result description: The work well advanced in 2021 has not been completed in 2022 and 2023, waiting for the publication of the second and final volume of the journal *Diversity* (MDPI) which is planned for the beginning of 2024, and will provide a synthesis of the major hotspots of subterranean biodiversity on earth.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-006 De el . . CISG \ eb . i e . (KSR 12)

Number of websites developed: 1

Result description: The website was developed and launched, providing group info along with a reference library, which will be added on to over time.

T-009 Se . . a . e . . k . f . egi . . al c . . ac . e . . . f . . ide . if . i g a d deali g \ i h . egi . . al i . . e . . (KSR 13)

Regional focal persons are identified and manage issues regarding their region: Ongoing.

Result description: Through the edition of the special issue of the journal *Diversity* about 'World Hotspots of Subterranean Biodiversity' and the ongoing edition of the *Encyclopaedia Biospeologica - Europe* (60 contributions, more than 200 contributors), contacts with a large number of subterranean specialists have been formalised. Several expressed interest in subterranean species conservation in different regions of the world. The publication at the beginning of 2024 of the second Special Issue would allow us to go further in allocating and sharing tasks.

T-014 P bli . h da a . . h f ca e i . e . eb . a e . , i cl di ge al a i . . f h . ea . . (KSR 12)

Number of books, handbooks and guides published: 1

Result description: Open-source publication titled ' '

