

The authors

Jörg Freyhof is a research scientist at the Museum für Naturkunde, Leibniz Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity in Berlin, Germany, and Regional Chair of the IUCN SSC Freshwater Fish Specialist Group. He is a world authority on freshwater fishes, focusing on conservation, biodiversity, biogeography, evolutionary ecology, and taxonomy. He has described more than 130 new species of freshwater fishes and is the author of some 350 scientific publications cited more than 20,000 times. These include the *Handbook of European Freshwater Fishes* and *Freshwater Fishes of the Arabian Peninsula*.

Baran Yoğurtçuoğlu is a conservation scientist at Hacettepe University, Department of Biology in Ankara, Türkiye, and Regional Chair of the IUCN SSC Freshwater Fish Specialist Group. He studies the diversity, distribution, and interactions of freshwater fishes in West Asia, focusing on how evolutionary history and ecological processes, including species interactions and climate change, influence their distribution patterns and diversity profiles. He supports the documentation and conservation of freshwater fish biodiversity, particularly in the Mediterranean biodiversity hotspot, by leading and participating in several projects.

Arash Jouladeh-Roudbar is an independent researcher on aquatic biodiversity and fish taxonomy. His studies focus on the diversity, taxonomy, evolutionary history, and biogeography of the freshwater fauna of West Asia, and he has worked extensively on the freshwater fauna of Iran over the past decade. His academic background, with over 50 peer-reviewed scientific publications and the description of 15 new species, makes him a young member of the scientific community in West Asia. Arash is a science enthusiast interested in the global conservation of freshwater ecosystems and is active in international environments for the protection of aquatic fauna and flora.

Cüneyt Kaya is a fish taxonomist at the Faculty of Fisheries at Recep Tayyip Erdogan University in Rize, Türkiye. Freshwater fishes have always been his main academic and personal interest, and he has always been motivated to pursue a career working with them. His main interests are the conservation, diversity, and distribution of freshwater fishes. His research also focuses on the effects of ecological change, including invasive species and habitat change, on aquatic fauna. During his career, he has published more than 80 peer-reviewed scientific papers and described 50 new species of freshwater fishes.



The authors at Arsuz, Türkiye, from left: Jörg Freyhof, Arash Jouladeh-Roudbar, Baran Yoğurtçuoğlu, Cüneyt Kaya. © R. Sanda