

## Molekularna biologija razotkriva razinu genetičke raznolikosti dobrog dupina (*Tursiops truncatus*)

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Dramatično smanjenje brojnosti dupina u svijetu uzrokovano je izlovljavanjem, uništavanjem staništa, smanjenjem ribljeg fonda i bolestima dupina. Dobri dupin (*Tursiops truncatus*) jedina je vrsta morskih sisavaca koja stalno nastanjuje hrvatski dio Jadranskog mora. Zbog male brojnosti i potencijalne geografske izoliranosti, populaciji dobrog dupina u Jadranskom moru prijeti izumiranje. U Hrvatskoj je dobri dupin ugrožena i zakonom zaštićena vrsta. Nužnim čimbenikom za mogućnost adaptacije i dugoročno preživljivanje populacija smatra se genetička raznolikost. Cilj našeg rada bio je postaviti temelje za istraživanja genetičke raznolikosti populacije dobrog dupina Jadranskog mora. Analizirali smo mikrosatelitske lokuse u 30 jedinki i dio kontrolne regije mitochondrialne DNA (mtDNA) u 22 jedinke. DNA smo izolirali iz tkiva lešina, te smo provedli lančane reakcije polimerazom (PCR) u kojima je amplificirano 12 mikrosatelitskih lokusa. Rezultati pokazuju relativno visoku genetičku raznolikost u populaciji dobrog dupina u Hrvatskoj. Analiza sljedova mtDNA pokazala je da postoji samo četiri jedinstvena haplotipa s 22 polimorfna mjesta. Haplotska i nukleotidna raznolikost istraživane populacije relativno je niska. Dobiveni rezultati su preliminarni i vjerujemo da će se pokazati vrijednim za buduća genetička istraživanja jadranskih dobrih dupina.

## Molecular biology reveals the level of genetic diversity of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*)

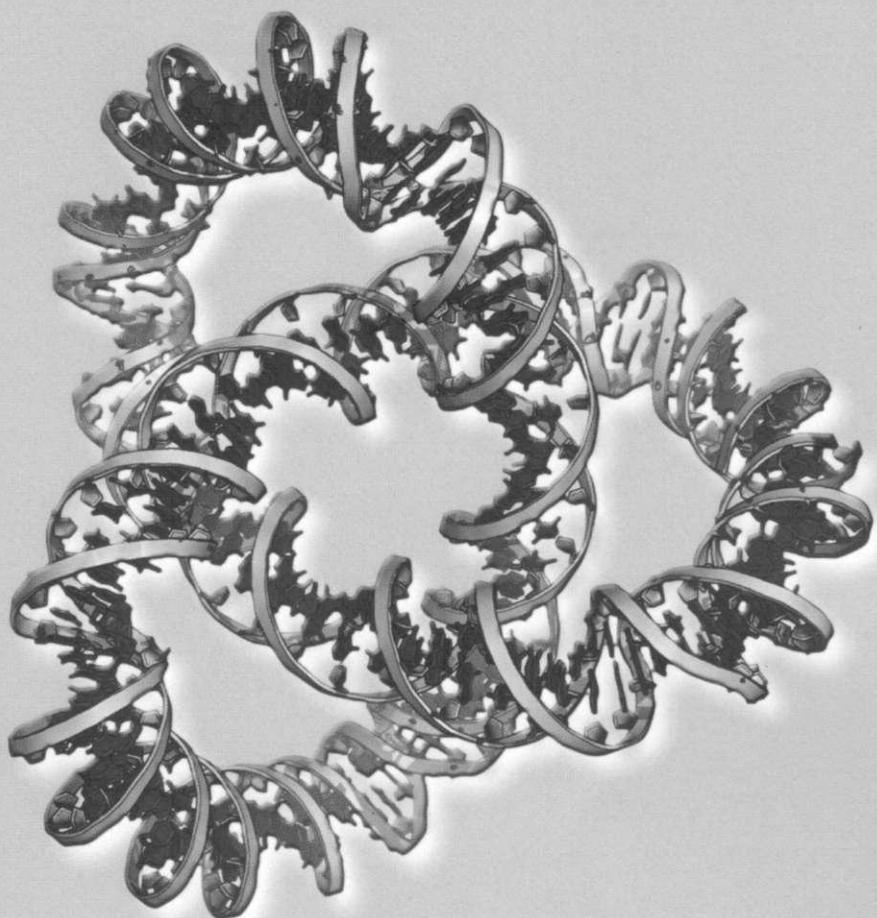
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Habitat destruction, diminishing food resources, live catches, disease and direct persecution have led to the dramatic decline in number of many dolphins worldwide. The bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) is the only resident marine mammal species in the Croatian part of the Adriatic Sea. The low abundance and potential geographical isolation render this population prone to extinction. The species is considered an endangered and is legally protected in Croatia. Genetic variability is thought to be essential to the long-term persistence and adaptability of populations. Therefore the aim of this study was to initiate investigation of genetic diversity of bottlenose dolphins from the Adriatic Sea. We analysed microsatellite loci in 30 bottlenose dolphin samples and a fragment of the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) control region in 22 samples. DNA was extracted from tissues of carcasses. Multiplex polymerase chain reactions (PCR) were performed in which 12 microsatellite loci were amplified and analysed. The microsatellite results reveal relatively high genetic variability in the investigated population. Mt DNA sequence analysis identified only four unique haplotypes with 22 polymorphic sites. Both haplotype diversity and nucleotide diversity of the Croatian bottlenose dolphin population were relatively low. These genetic results are preliminary and should prove valuable for future molecular genetic investigations of the Adriatic bottlenose dolphins.

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