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First record of living fossil tadpole shrimp *Triops numidicus* (Grube, 1865, resurrected by Naganawa) in the desert of Al-Najaf

Hayder M. Al-Rammahi 1; Mohammad K. Mohammad 2; Hidetoshi Naganawa 3

¹ Faculty of Veterinary Medicine ,University of Kufa, Kufa ,Iraq; ² Department of Medical Laboratory Techniques, College of Health and Medical Technology, Uruk Private University, Baghdad, Iraq; ³ Laboratory of Comparative Biochemistry, the United Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Gifu University, 1-1 Yanagido, Gifu 501-1193, Japan

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*Corresponding author: Hayder M. Al-Rammahi: Email

address:

hayderm.alrammahi@uokufa.ed u.iq

Abstract

The study conducted to survey the existence of tadpole shrimp in ephemeral ponds and streams of the desert of Al-Najaf. Out of 13 ponds, the tadpole shrimps were occur in 5 only including terminal part of Abu-Talah valley, archaeological basin of Um Groon castle ,first part of Wier valley, Rejlat Al-Ziana and Sharaf wells. All samples were identified morphologically as *Triops numidicus* (Grube, 1865, resurrected by Naganawa), the controversial synonymy, morphological and morphometrical features are discussed.

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