THREATENED FISHES OF THE WORLD
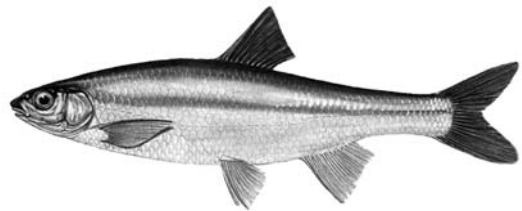
Threatened fishes of the world: *Chondrostoma scodrense* Elvira, 1987 (Cyprinidae)

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Common name: Skadarsko skobalj (Serbian). Njilë e Shkodrës (Albanian), Skadar nase (English). **Conservation status:** Extinct (EX; Crivelli 2005). Described from nine specimens caught 125 years ago, in spite of intensive investigations (P.G. Bianco in 1999 and J. Freyhof in 2003, pers.comm.), no specimens have since been recorded, so assumed Extinct (Reynolds et al. 2005). **Identification:** D III + 8–9, A III + 9–10, V I + 8, P I + 15–18, pharyngeal teeth 6-5 or 5–5, LL 51–59, gill rakers 14–17. Reaches 135 mm SL, mouth slightly arched. The horny layer of the lower lip is well developed but rather thin. Dorsal and anal fins are slightly concave in outline (Elvira 1987). Drawing by B. Elvira. **Distribution:** Formerly restricted to the Lake Skadar, and to the River Morača-Rijeka, a north-western river system tributary of that lake, in Albania and Montenegro (Elvira 1987, 1997). **Abundance:** In the past, it seems to be rather less common than the congeneric *Chondrostoma nasus* (L., 1758) in the lake and tributaries. Samples from that area at the Natural History Museum of Vienna, collected

by F. Steindachner on August–September 1881, consist of nine *C. scodrense* (12%) specimens and 66 of *C. nasus* (88%). Meristic features of 60 specimens from Skadar Lake confirmed them as *C. nasus* Ivanović (1973). **Habitat and ecology:** Mostly a lacustrine species. **Reproduction:** Presumed that *C. scodrense*, and *C. nasus*, went up the river Rijeka in spring for spawning. **Threats:** Not clear. Commercial fisheries of *Chondrostoma* species (both *C. nasus* and *C. scodrense*) in the Skadar Lake declined dramatically during the 1970s, the stocks were considered over-exploited (Stein et al. 1975), and *C. scodrense* assumed to be Extinct (Maric 1995). Population declines of both nase species from over-fishing, habitat loss and pollution. **Conservation action:** None. Albania and Montenegro have protected almost 900 km^2 of the Skadar Lake. The Montenegrin part of the lake and its surrounding area was declared a national park in 1983, and a Ramsar Site in 1996; while in Albania, the Skadar Lake is a managed nature reserve since 2005. **Conservation recommendations:** Further field surveys in the Skadar

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Lake and tributaries. Poaching must be eradicated. **Remarks:** One of the seven freshwater fish species known to be extinct in the Mediterranean basin (Smith and Darwall 2006), and together with the Balkanian cyprinid *Telestes ukliva* (Heckel, 1843) one of the two extinct species endemic to Europe.

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