

## Valenciidae Family EEP Annual Report for the EAZA Freshwater Teleost Taxon Advisory Group



Date of report: 06 September 2022

EEP Family name: Valenciidae

Coordinator name and Institution name: Brian Zimmerman, Bristol Zoological Society

Supporters and collaborators' names: Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) – Institute of Inland Waters; ZSL Whipsnade, University of the West of England

List of species of priority within the EEP: *Valencia letourneuxi*, *V. robertae*, *V. hispanica*

Ex-situ status:

*Valencia letourneuxi*: there are numbers of *Valencia letourneuxi* held at the labs of HCMR in Anavyssos, Greece and some hobbyists in Europe hold the species.

*Valencia robertae*: 211 individuals held in six institutions in EAZA with numbers held at the labs of HCMR in Anavyssos, Greece and some hobbyists in Europe and North America hold the species.

*Valencia hispanica*: 32 individuals held in two institutions in EAZA with some hobbyists in Europe holding the species also. An EU Life project also held and bred large numbers in Catalonia for reintroductions.

In-situ status: all three species are Critically Endangered. Ongoing work is taking place in Greece in collaboration with Bristol Zoological Society, UWE and the HCMR for both *Valencia letourneuxi* and *V. robertae*. The collaboration with HCMR started with ZSL in 2005 and continues today. Activities to date include translocation, monitoring, habitat improvement, research on interactions with alien invasive *Gambusia*, breeding biology and environmental tolerances as well as eDNA for monitoring.

In Spain the EU Life project has concluded but the work is still being done to safeguard *Valencia hispanica*:

[https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n\\_proj\\_id=117](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=117)

News: A website has been created for Project Afresh in Greece, detailing the work with the two Greek species: <https://afresh.hcmr.gr/>

Case study: In 2005 the Fish Net Greece project team identified a small spring area in a village, that flowed into a large system where *Valencia letourneuxi* were present. The *Valencia* were not present in the spring area but were in the larger system, along with the competitor *Gambusia holbrooki*. After several years of monitoring the team decided to move some *Valencia* to the spring area as it was considered suitable habitat and secure from the *Gambusia*. Follow up monitoring in 2022 revealed successful reproduction in the spring. Monitoring will now continue to check the population's stability over time.



*Figure 1 Secure Spring area*



*Figure 2 Valencia letourneuxi being released into the secure spring area*