

## A new record of the Common Spadefoot *Pelobates fuscus fuscus* (LAURENTI, 1768), in Slovenia (Anura: Pelobatidae)

Ein neuer Fundort der Knoblauchkröte,  
*Pelobates fuscus fuscus* (LAURENTI, 1768), in Slowenien  
(Anura: Pelobatidae)

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### KURZFASSUNG

Aus Slowenien war die Knoblauchkröte *Pelobates fuscus fuscus* (LAURENTI, 1768) bisher nur vom Nordosten des Landes (Prekmurje) bekannt. Am 11. April 1996 wurde ein totes Exemplar im Flachwasser eines Teiches beim Dorf Rače (46°26' N, 15°41' E, 257 m ü.N.N.) gefunden. Die nächsten bekannten Vorkommen befinden sich bei Ormož in etwa 39 km Entfernung.

### ABSTRACT

In Slovenia, to our present knowledge, the Common Spadefoot *Pelobates fuscus fuscus* (LAURENTI, 1768) is restricted to the northeastern edge of the country (Prekmurje). On April 11, 1996, a dead specimen was found in the shallow water of a pond near Rače (46°26' N, 15°41' E, 257 m a.s.l.). The nearest known locality is located near Ormož in a distance of about 39 km.

### KEY WORDS

Anura, Pelobatidae, *Pelobates fuscus fuscus*, new locality record, Slovenia

According to our knowledge on the Slovenian batrachofauna (e. g., BURLIN & DOLCE 1986; SKET 1992; VOGRIN & VOGRIN in print) the occurrence of the Common Spadefoot *Pelobates fuscus fuscus* (LAURENTI, 1768), seemed to be restricted to the northeastern edge of the country (Prekmurje).

On April 11, 1996, an adult female *P. fuscus* was found dead in the shallow water of a pond near Rače (46°26' N, 15°41' E, 257 m a.s.l.) on Dravsko polje (Drava field) (fig. 1). The new finding is the westernmost locality record of *P. fuscus* in Slovenia. The nearest known population of *P. fuscus* is located near the town Ormož at the river Drava (JANŽEKOVIČ unpubl.; fig. 1) in a distance of about 39 km (specimens deposited at the University of Maribor, Department of Biology). Most other known locations of *P. fuscus* in Slovenia are situated along the river Mura.

Dravsko polje, an alluvial plain of 210 m<sup>2</sup>, is situated between river Drava and Mt. Pohorje at an altitude of 238 m to 270 m. The area belongs to the sub-pan-

nonic phytogeographical area (MARTINČEK 1987). Dravsko polje is an area of intensive agriculture today. We can find numerous man-made water bodies (fish ponds, reservoirs, gravel pits). Some of them are protected nature reserves and landscape parks. *P. fuscus* was found in a complex of ponds called 'Turn' which lies near the village Rače (Kranichsfeld) and is a protected nature reserve of the landscape park Rački ribniki (Rače ponds) - Požeg reservoir. All three ponds are characterized by shallow water (up to 1.2 m), rich submersed (e. g., *Typha latifolia*, *Phragmites australis*, *Iris pseudacorus*) and floating vegetation (e. g., *Lemna* sp., *Marsilea quadrifolia*). The ponds cover about 5.3 ha and were used for extensive fish rearing for probably more than 200 years. The vicinity of the ponds is covered with mixed forest, the most common trees are *Pinus sylvestris*, *Picea abies*, *Quercus robur*, *Alnus glutinosa*.

In the 19th century Dravsko polje was dominated by approximately 6600 ha of damp meadows (AVŠIČ & BURJA 1996) with belts of trees and shrubbery called

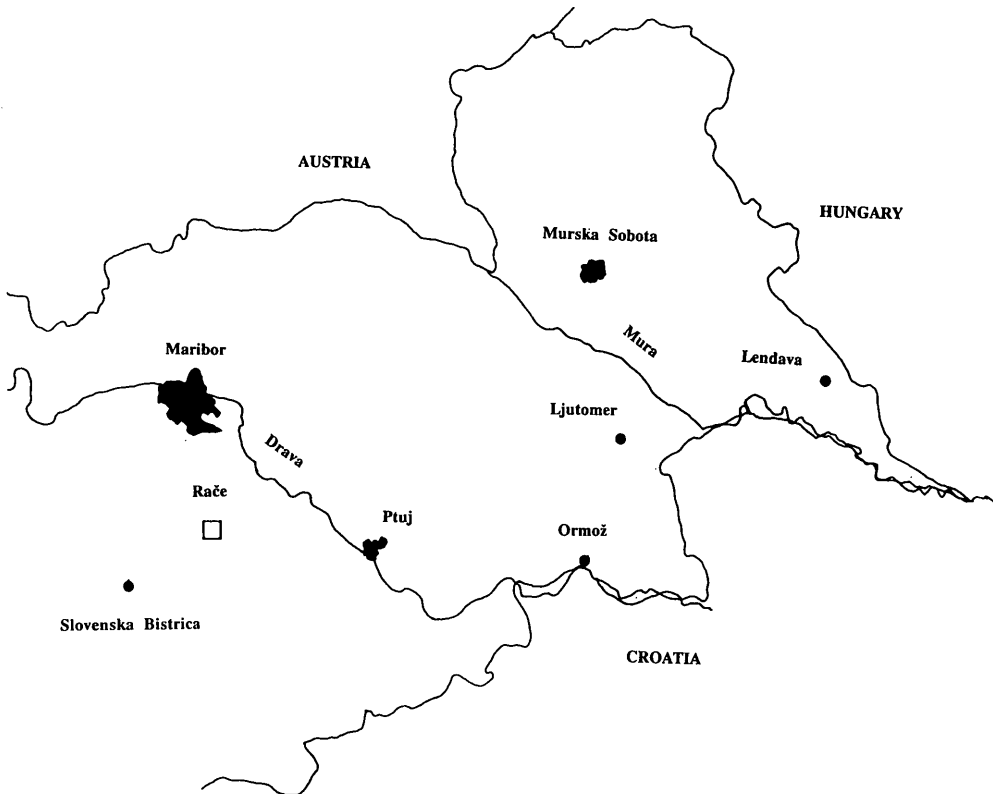


Fig. 1: New locality record of *Pelobates fuscus fuscus* (LAURENTI, 1768) near Rače in NE Slovenia.

Abb. 1: Neuer Fundort von *Pelobates fuscus fuscus* (LAURENTI, 1768) bei Rače in NO Slowenien.

‘chreta’ (MELIK 1957). Due to numerous interventions in the past, the river system and its flood plain are now sadly ranked as one of the most degraded waterways in Slo-

venia. According to this reasons I assume that the Spadefoot population in the ponds called Turn is probably completely isolated from other populations in NE Slovenia.

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