

New record suggests sympatry of *Lacerta pamphylica* SCHMIDTLER, 1975 with *L. trilineata* BEDRIAGA, 1886

Lacerta pamphylica SCHMIDTLER, 1975 is a Turkish endemic species of the *Lacerta trilineata* species group and is restricted to the coastal southern part of Anatolia in the provinces of Antalya and İçel (= Mersin), from 10 km N Taşağıl in the west to the Göksu delta in the east, north to Cevizli (province of Antalya) (SCHMIDTLER 1986; VAN DER VINDEN & BOGAERT 1992). This lizard is parapatric with *Lacerta trilineata* BEDRIAGA, 1886 in the west and the north-west, and with *Lacerta media* LANTZ & CYRÉN, 1920 in the east and the north-east. The closest record of *L. trilineata* in relation to those of *L. pamphylica* is Antalya and of *L. media* is the Lamas çayı mouth, NE Erdemli (province of Mersin).

Two of us (MG and JV) found five juveniles of *L. pamphylica* (fig. 1) on December 16, 1997, at the archaeological site of Olympos, ca. 85 km SSW of Antalya along the coastal road to Finike (province of Antalya) [36,392°N / 30,486°E]. These lizards were



Fig. 1: *Lacerta pamphylica* SCHMIDTLER, 1975 from the archaeological site of Olympos (province of Antalya, Turkey). The lack of clear pale lines on the body is a distinctive character of young *Lacerta pamphylica*. Photograph by M. GENIEZ.

observed in a calcareous gorge with pine forests and orange groves, near the sea. They were typical to those of *L. pamphylica*, especially in the lack of the three or five light longitudinal dorsal stripes almost always present in juveniles of *L. trilineata* and *L. media*. This identification was confirmed by Prof. Josef F. SCHMIDTLER (Munich, in litt.) based on the picture of fig. 1.



Fig. 2: Distribution of the members of the *Lacerta trilineata* group in the provinces of Antalya and İçel (Turkey), according to SCHMIDTLER 1975, 1986; VAN DER WINDEN & BOGAERTS 1992; personal observations. ▲ - *Lacerta trilineata*, ● - *Lacerta pamphylica*, ◆ - *Lacerta media*, ★ - Olympos (new record of *L. pamphylica*).

In the same locality, the following species were recorded (on December 16, 1997 and April 7, 1988 by MG and JV and on May 14, 2003 by P.-A. CROCHET): *Bufo viridis* LAURENTI, 1768, *Hyla arborea* (LINNAEUS, 1758), *Rana bedriagae* CAMERANO, 1882, *Testudo graeca iberica* PALLAS, 1814, *Mauremys rivulata* (VALENCIENNES, 1833), *Laudakia stellio daani* (BEUTLER & FRÖR, 1980), *Lacerta oertzeni ibrahimi* EISELT & SCHMIDTLER, 1986, *Ablepharus budaki* GÖC-MEN et al., 1996, *Blanus strauchi* (BEDRIAGA, 1884), *Typhlops vermicularis* MERREM, 1820, *Coluber jugularis* LINNAEUS, 1758, *Natrix tessellata* (LAURENTI, 1768) and *Vipera xanthina* (GRAY, 1849).

This new locality extends the known distribution of *Lacerta pamphylica* nearly 100 km towards the south-west. It lies within the range of *L. trilineata*, although the species has not been reported to our knowledge from the area around Olympos. The closest known mentions of *L. trilineata* are from Antalya (58 km NNE Olympos) and Kasaba (68 km WSW Olympos) (SCHMIDTLER 1975). Unfortunately, the lack of records of the *L. trilineata* species-group in this region (Bey Dağları) does not allow yet to establish the exact nature of the contact zone between *L. pamphylica* and *L. trilineata* (parapatry or sympatry). The morphology of our *L. pamphylica* specimens from Olympos does not suggest signs of hybridization.

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Recent records of the rare *Psammodromus microdactylus* (BOETTGER, 1881) in Morocco

In scientific collections the Moroccan endemic *Psammodromus microdactylus* (BOETTGER, 1881) is represented mainly by specimens sampled in the end of the 19th / beginning of the 20th century; reasonably large series from later are lacking (see table 1). Until the mid-1960s the lizard was observed several times by Jacques BONS (BONS 1967). However, only two records dating from after the mid-1960s were known at the time of publication of the BONS & GENIEZ (1996) atlas, revealing this species to be currently one of the rarest Moroccan lacertids. GENIEZ et al. (1993) provided a list of localities known for *P. microdactylus* up to 1993.

It is difficult to determine whether the species is now rarer than it was one century ago or if it is less frequently detected for unknown reasons, but several lines of argument suggest that it has become genuinely rare. First, the ratio of old versus recent records (based on the database of Moroccan herpetofauna records held at the Laboratory of Biogeography and Vertebrate Ecology in Montpellier, E.P.H.E – B.E.V.) is different from that of all other Moroccan lizard species, with clearly more old than recent records (fig. 1). Second, the species has been searched for several times specifically in areas with previous records, but in vain (GENIEZ et al. 1993). Third, even at localities where several specimens had been collected in the past (such as Balcon d'Ito = Lalla Ito) and where the species has been recorded recently (GENIEZ et al. 1993; BONS & GENIEZ 1996), individuals have become uncommon and difficult to find (several visits without recording of a single specimen - P. GENIEZ, pers. comm.).

In this context, the publication of additional recent localities of the species, with information on ecology and habitat is of particular importance, as this may allow monitoring of its continuing presence in areas where it persisted after the middle of the 20th century and help to identify its preferred habitats. The aim of this note is to give information on the habitat of the

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