

those of the Tafilalet or the Draa valley; some isolated populations are also known from higher altitudes in the Saharan Atlas, such as that of the Jbel Ksel (MATEO 1990). However, no population is as isolated as that of the Seguiat el Hamra mentioned above, which is situated 570 km south-west of the nearest neighbour population located in the mountains of the Anti-Atlas, near Irherm (Michel GENIEZ in BONS & GENIEZ 1996).

This presently discontinuous distribution of *T. tangitanus*, is explained by the recent (Holocene) aridification of the region. During this process the Moroccan Ocellated Lizard must be expected to have been present in great parts of the western coastal areas of the Sahara, sharing its territory with species at present considered as Sahelian or sub-Saharan (see GENIEZ et al. 2004). However, this relictual lizard population is probably on the way to extinction because of its apparently small size, its obvious disjunction with the rest of the species, the extreme climatic conditions for lizards of the genus *Timon*, and the current extension of the urbanisation of Laayoune along the Seguiat el Hamra river basin.

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Records of *Testudo graeca ibera* PALLAS, 1814 in Serbia and Montenegro

The herpetofauna of Serbia consists of both Mediterranean and Middle European elements (DŽUKIĆ 1995) with the main area of Mediterranean impact being Metohia (western part of the province of Kosovo), where climatic influences from the Adriatic Sea extend along the Drim River valley (PASULJEVIĆ 1968; DŽUKIĆ & PASULJEVIĆ 1979; AJTIĆ & TOMOVIĆ 2001), and the southernmost part of Serbia (i. e. Pčinja River valley). Pčinja River is a tributary of the Vardar River – which is a well known northward corridor for Mediterranean species (MATVEJEV 1961; RADOVANOVIC 1964; MATVEJEV & PUNCER 1989). The occurrence of various Mediterranean elements has been confirmed for great parts of the Republic of Macedonia in the immediate south of Serbia: *Testudo graeca LINNAEUS, 1758*, *Cyrtodactylus kotschy* (STEINDACHNER, 1870), *Algyrodes nigropunctatus* (DUMÉRIL & BIBRON, 1839), *Lacerta trilineata* BEDRIAGA, 1886, *Podarcis erhardii* (BEDRIAGA, 1882), *Pseudopus apodus* PALLAS, 1775, *Typhlops vermicularis* MERREM, 1820, *Eryx jaculus* (LINNAEUS, 1758), *Coluber (Platyceps) najadum* (EICHWALD, 1831), *C. caspius* GMELIN, 1789, *Elaphe situla* (LINNAEUS, 1758), *E. quatuorlineata* (LACÉPÈDE, 1789), *Mallpolon monspessulanus* (HERMANN, 1804), *Telescopus fallax* (FLEISCHMANN, 1831) (KARAMAN 1931, 1939; RADOVANOVIC 1951; DIMOVSKI 1963, 1966; DŽUKIĆ 1972; BRELIH & DŽUKIĆ 1974). The presence of *P. erhardii* and *C. najadum* in the Pčinja River valley (DŽUKIĆ 1995; CRNOBRNJA-ISAILOVIĆ & ALEKSIĆ 1999) is further evidence that



Fig. 1: *Testudo graeca ibera* PALLAS, 1814 from near the village of Čivčije, Serbia (42°18'874 N, 21°52'372 E).

Mediterranean influences spread deep into the mainland along the Vardar and Pčinja River valleys.

Although, the possible occurrence of *Testudo graeca ibera* PALLAS, 1814 in southern Serbia was assumed already earlier (DŽUKIĆ 1995), the presence of this species has not been demonstrated until BUSKIRK et al. (2001) mentioned three specimens from Kosovska Mitrovica deposited in the Zoologische Staatssammlung, Munich (ZSM 1-3/2000). They furthermore presented the view that - due to the climate conditions prevailing - *T. graeca ibera* could also be found in the Sitnica/Lepenac valley.

During a field trip along the Macedonian-Serbian border we found one adult male specimen of *T. graeca ibera* (fig. 1) near the village of Čivčije (42°18'874 N, 21°52'372 E, National Grid Reference, UTM 10 km x 10 km EM78) on April 11, 2004. The site is located at approximately 520 m a.s.l. Characteristic plant species present were *Quercus pubescens*, *Qu. cerris*, *Carpinus orientalis* and *Juniperus oxycedrus*.

The common tortoise in the area under study is *Testudo hermanni boettgeri* MOJSISOVICS, 1889. Since we found only one adult specimen of *T. graeca ibera* among 50 tortoise specimens during our excursions in two consecutive years, we can conclude that this *T. graeca ibera* specimen belongs to a population situated at the very brink of the species' distribution.

This implies low population density and increased vulnerability of the species which is - in the country under study - threatened per se by the fact that it is at its distributional limit. *Testudo graeca ibera* should urgently be added to the list of protected species in conservation legislation and to the Red Data Book of threatened species of Serbia and Montenegro. Since the presence of Mediterranean species in addition to Middle European taxa results in an increased reptilian diversity in the Pčinja River region (DŽUKIĆ 1995), this area should be included in the list of important herpetological areas in Serbia and Montenegro and the Balkan Peninsula. Further field research will be necessary in order to assess the population status of *T. graeca ibera* in Serbia and Montenegro.

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Range extensions of *Lycodon capucinus* BOIE, 1827 in eastern Indonesia

The colubrid snake *Lycodon capucinus* BOIE, 1827 is widely distributed throughout Southeast Asia, southeastern

China, the Philippines, and Indonesia (DE ROOIJ 1917; DE HAAS 1950; BOSCH 1985; ISKANDAR & COLIJN 2001). A recent colonization of Christmas Island, about 320 km south of Java, was reported by L. A. SMITH (1988). In eastern Indonesia, *L. capucinus* has been known from central, southwestern, and southeastern Sulawesi (DE ROOIJ 1917; ISKANDAR & TJAN 1996) and from the Lesser Sunda Islands of Sumbawa, Sumba, Savu, Roti, Timor, Flores, Lombok, Alor, Lembata, and Wetar (DE ROOIJ 1917; HOW et al. 1996). Recent new island records for *L. capucinus* include Lombok, Moyo, Komodo, Adonara, Pantar, Kisar and Semau in the Lesser Sunda Islands, and Babar and Kai in Southeastern Maluku (HOW et al. 1996; MONK et al. 1997; ISKANDAR & COLIJN 2001 [politically, the islands of Wetar and Kisar also belong to Southeastern Maluku regency]). Here we report the presence of *L. capucinus* on the islands of Ambon, Seram and Buru (Central Maluku regency) from where we examined a total of six specimens.

Vouchers are deposited in the following collections: Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main, Germany (SMF); Texas Memorial Museum, The University of Texas at Austin, USA (TNHC). On Seram we collected two specimens on 14 April 1998 between 19:00 and 21:00 on the road between the villages Kairatu and Wae Samu on the western coast (SMF 822999), and 28 km NW (by road) of the Kairatu ferry port on the same road (TNHC 59520). On Buru, we collected a specimen (SMF 83000) on 18 April 1998 near the village of Labuan, Namrole, on the south coast. The Buru specimen regurgitated a partly digested, scincid lizard a few hours after capture. Three specimens of *L. capucinus* from the harbour town Waai in northeastern Ambon (SMF, uncatalogued) document its presence on that island as early as 1956.

The six specimens reported herein are the first records of *L. capucinus* and the genus *Lycodon* FITZINGER, 1826 for the islands of Ambon, Seram and Buru, and for the regency of Central Maluku and the northern Maluku biogeographical subregion (sensu HOW & KITCHENER 1997). In their external phenotype, these specimens closely

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