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Lacerta mosorensis KOLOMBATOVIĆ, 1886 new to the herpetofauna of Albania

The Balkan Peninsula holds a remarkably high diversity of lacertid lizards including many endemic taxa. The richest area in terms of lizard species is the so called "Adriatic Triangle" (border region between Montenegro and Albania) where 17 saurian (11 lacertid) species were found to occur (DŽUKIĆ & KALEZIĆ 2004). Accumulation of new field data is essential in order to fulfil the gaps in our knowledge of the endemic species.

Species composition of the Albanian herpetofauna is known to some degree (BRUNO 1989; HAXHIU 1998). However, the mountains along the border with Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia are insufficiently studied and only a limited number of field records is available from the northern parts of the country. BALAZS & BALAZS (1997) studied the herpetofauna in the vicinity of Bjeshkët e Nemura and the village of

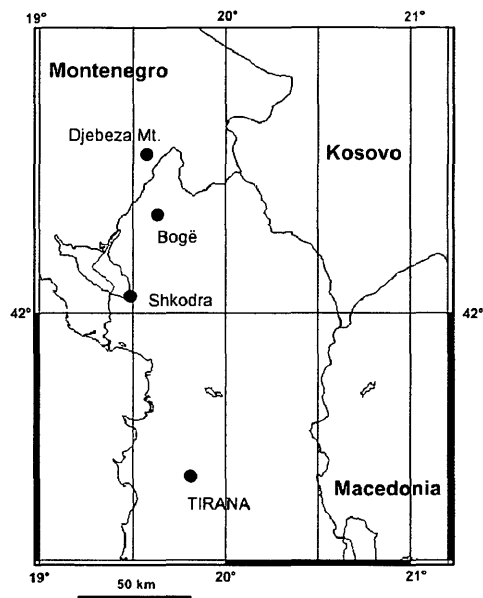


Fig. 1: Record of *Lacerta mosorensis* KOLOMBATOVIĆ, 1886 in Albania (Bridash Massif, above the village of Bogë, 1850 m a.s.l. 42°24'11"N, 19°39'34"E).

Okol (Distr. Shkodra) and noted the occurrence of six species of amphibians and six species of reptiles. Among the lizards, the authors reported the occurrence of *Podarcis erhardii* (BEDRIAGA, 1882), *P. muralis* (LAURENTI, 1768) and *Lacerta viridis* (LAURENTI, 1768).

During the Bulgarian National Speleological Expedition in May 1993 I had the opportunity to study the herpetofauna in the vicinity of the village of Bogë (Distr. Shkodra).

Among other species [*Rana ridibunda* PALLAS, 1771, *Bufo viridis* LAURENTI, 1768, *Bombina variegata* (LINNAEUS, 1758), *P. muralis*, *Vipera ammodytes* (LINNAEUS, 1758)] I collected one specimen of the Mosor Rock Lizard, *Lacerta mosorensis* KOLOMBATOVIĆ, 1886 [adult female, 1850 m, Bridash Massif above the village of Bogë (42°24'11"N, 19°39'34"E; UTM grid CM89), Distr. Shkodra, 25.05.1993, B. PETROV & P. BERON leg., NMNH-Sofia III-305-1; fig. 1]. Only one out of five specimens observed was caught and kept for the collection of the National Museum of Natural History in

Sofia. The species was observed to inhabit the southern slopes of the Bridash massif in the belt of 1800-1900 m a.s.l. It was encountered only locally and proved to be much less abundant compared to the dominant lizard *P. muralis*.

The Mosor Rock Lizard is endemic to southern Dalmatia (Hercegovina and Montenegro). It is one of the least studied lacertids of the European herpetofauna (DŽUKIĆ 1989; GASC et al. 1997). This lizard is a typical mountain dweller, which lives only above 600 m a.s.l. Occurrence of the species is strictly associated with rocks (mostly limestone) where it lives in the fissures and recesses.

An important contribution, which revealed the presence of the Mosor Rock Lizard in southern Montenegro at the northern slopes of the Prokletije Mts. (42° 30'N, 19°50'E, Djebeza Mt.) was due to DŽUKIĆ et al. (1997). After longer term research of the latter team the species was discovered in the Bukumir region at 1600 m a.s.l. (May 31, 1995). We found the species at some 25 km southwards (aerial distance) from this locality, which confirmed the expectations that "...it is quite to be expected that new finds of *L. mosorensis* will be discovered what would lead to shifting of its range of distribution both in the South and East directions" (DŽUKIĆ et al. 1997). The present discovery raised the number of lizard species found in Albania to 15 (10 lacertids) (comp. HAXHIU 1998) and revealed that the country is part of the range of the Mosor Rock Lizard.

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New record of *Eryx jaculus jaculus* (LINNAEUS, 1758) in Morocco

The Western Sand Boa, *Eryx jaculus jaculus* (LINNAEUS, 1758) inhabits the Mediterranean coastal areas and Maghrebinian high plateaus of North Africa, from Egypt in the East to Morocco in the West where the limit of its range, so far known, is marked by



Fig. 1: Roadkill specimen of *Eryx jaculus jaculus* (LINNAEUS, 1758) found between Hassi Berkane and the "Barrage Mohammed V" reservoir, NE Morocco.

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