

be identified as “Djibouti City” or more generalized as “State of Djibouti”.

The records number 5 and “Djibuti” were referred to *T. somalicus* because ŠČERBAK & GOLUBEV (1996) considered *T. somalicus* a synonym of *T. tripolitanus* PETERS, 1880, a species never found in NE Afro-tropical countries (nearest localities are N Egypt, SE Libya and Niger).

A record for Egypt (BAHA EL DIN 1998) is based on a specimen now referred to another species, *Tropicolotes bisharicus* (BAHA EL DIN, 2001).

Up to now *T. somalicus* was considered endemic of Somalia, Djibouti and adjoining Ethiopia. The species is neither listed by LARGEN (1997) in his checklist of the Eritrean herpetofauna, nor by SCHÄTTI (2001) in his review of the herpetofauna of the Dahlak archipelago.

The Eritrean records from the Dahalak Kebir [approximately 15°39'N/40° 07'E] and Dissei Islands [approximately 15°05'N/39°75'E] represent the first evidence of the species in Eritrea and the northernmost localities of the species.

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KEY WORDS: *Tropicolotes somalicus*, Reptilia, Squamata: Sauria: Gekkonidae, Eritrea, new country record

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Herpetofauna in the area of the lakes Yliki and Paralimni and the Kifissos river in Boeotia, Greece

The area of the lakes Yliki and Paralimni including the Kifissos river system in Boeotia, Central Greece (22°03'33" – 23°24'00" E and 38°23'00" – 38°29'00") some 40 km NW of Athens, was selected to become one of 236 Greek Natura 2000 sites (Fig. 1). Fragmentary knowledge on the reptile and amphibian fauna called for a herpetofaunal study of this area.

The lakes are situated near the town of Theva (Thebes), north-northwest of Athens, and are guarded by the Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company since they are part of the drinking water supply system of the city of Athens. Today, the two lakes are interconnected by a canal. The Boeotian Kifissos river system includes numerous artificial canals which are draining the Kopais basin.

Lake Yliki has an average surface of 12 km², while the area of Lake Paralimni usually does not exceed 4 km². The mountains around the lakes are basically bare. A considerable portion of the Natura 2000 site is part of the plain of the now drained lake Kopais and is cultivated land. Around Lake Paralimni there are some small vineyards. The elevation of the study area ranges from 31 m (Lake Paralimni) to 781 m a.s.l. (Ptoon Mountain) (NCMR 2001; DAFIS et al. 1996).

In order to study the herpetofauna, the area was visited repeatedly in May, June, July, November 2003 and February and April 2004 (30 person-days). During the first visit, in May 2003, we selected four places to focus in fieldwork (Fig. 1): (A) the estuary of the Boeotian Kifissos river, (B) the north-eastern shore of Lake Yliki, (C) the area near the pump station of Lake Yliki, (D) the eastern shore of Lake Paralimni.

This is the first time that the area was covered by a herpetological field survey. Thus, only a moderate number of literature data refers to observations made in the study area proper. Selected specimens were deposited at the Goulandris Natural History Museum, Kifissia (GNHM).

Salamandra salamandra salamandra (LINNAEUS, 1758) – reported by DAFIS et al. (1996) without detailed locality data, not ob-

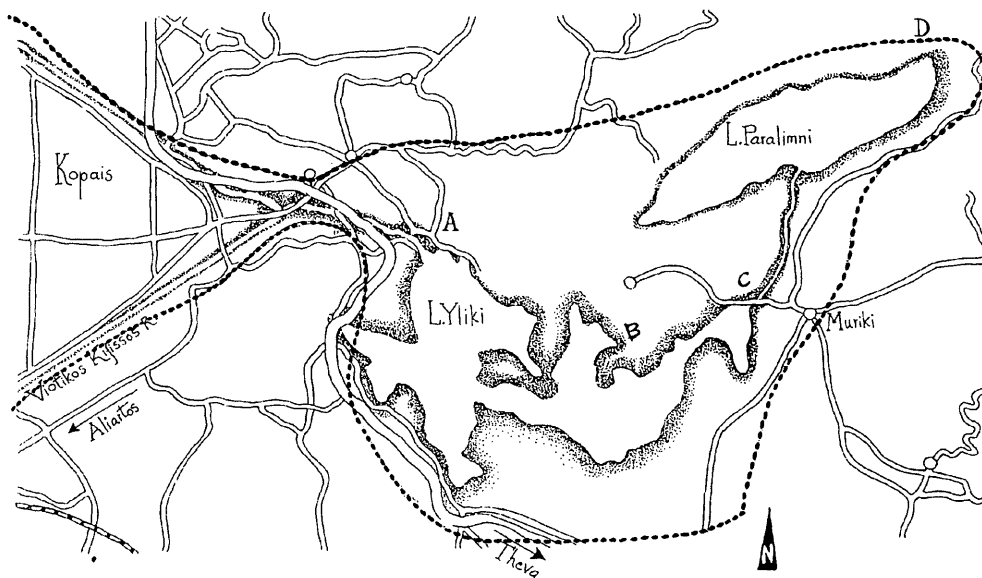


Fig. 1: The study area in Boeotia, Central Greece, some 40 km NW of Athens.

served during our visits. *BEDRIAGA* (1882) found it on Mount Parnassos, some 40 km W of the study area. *DAFIS et al.* (1996) took their information from *ARNOLD et al.* (1992) and personal communication (1994) with *E. D. VALAKOS* (Athens). We doubt this record at this unusual low altitude since *S. salamandra* is a typical mountain forest dweller.

Bufo viridis viridis *LAURENTI*, 1768 – reported by *DAFIS et al.* (1996), observed by the author at Muriki and at the estuary of the Boeotian Kifissos river (A in Fig. 1).

Hyla arborea arborea (*LINNAEUS*, 1758) – reported by *DAFIS et al.* (1996), one specimen observed at Anthidona (at the eastern border of the area).

Rana kurtmuelleri *GAYDA*, 1940 “1939” – *BEDRIAGA* (1882) reported *Rana ridibunda* *PALLAS*, 1771 from Lake Kopais. In Greece however, *R. ridibunda* is said to be restricted to Thrace (*SCHNEIDER et al.* 1993), but compare also *R. ridibunda* in *GASC et al.* (1997) in this respect. In May we found waterfrogs at the Lakes Yliki and Paralimni and at the estuary of the Boeotian Kifissos river (A - D in Fig. 1, GNHM 7039). In May and June great densities of this species were observed, active individuals also in February and April.

Rana dalmatina *BONAPARTE*, 1840 – reported by *DAFIS et al.* (1996), not observed during our visits.

Emys orbicularis hellenica (*VALENCIENNES*, 1832) – reported by *DAFIS et al.* (1996), observed by the author at Lake Paralimni (D in Fig. 1) in July where we estimated the density of the species at about three individuals per km shoreline.

Mauremys rivulata (*VALENCIENNES*, 1833) – The first observation of this species was made at the Boeotian Kifissos river (A in Fig. 1) in June. In July the species was observed again at the estuary of Boeotian Kifissos river where we estimate the density of this species at about five individuals per km shoreline. Ten individuals were seen active in February.

Testudo hermanni boettgeri *MOJSISOVICS*, 1889 – reported by *DAFIS et al.* (1996), but not observed during our visits.

Testudo marginata *SCHOEPFF*, 1792 – reported by *DAFIS et al.* (1996). During our visits it was observed close to Lake Paralimni (D in Fig. 1).

Lacerta trilineata major *BOULENGER*, 1887 – observed in great numbers (A - D in Fig. 1, GNHM 7038).

Pseudopus apodus thracicus (OBST, 1978) – various observations by the author in May, June and July (GNHM 6032).

Typhlops vermicularis MERREM, 1820 – reported by WERNER (1938) from Ipatia near Theva, found by the author in May near the estuary of the Boeotian Kifissos river (A in Fig. 1, GNHM 5039) in a habitat with olive groves and other cultivations.

Coluber (Hierophis) caspius GMELIN, 1789 – reported by WERNER (1938) from Theva (melanistic specimen), found by the author in July southeast of Lake Paralimni (between C and D in Fig. 1) dead on the road near cultivated land.

Natrix natrix persa (PALLAS, 1814) – CLARK (1968) reports this species from Lake Theves (=Lake Yliki - R. CLARK in litt.). We made four observations of the species, all of them at the pump station of Lake Yliki (C in Fig. 1).

Natrix tessellata (LAURENTI, 1768) – CLARK (1968) reports this species from Lake Yliki. In May the species was observed in high numbers. We estimated the density at 10-17 individuals per km shoreline on Lake Paralimni and about nine at the estuary of the Boeotian Kifissos river. During November the species was still active at Lake Paralimni. Vouchers: GNHM 7036, 7037, 11032, 50310, 50311, 70310, 70311, 70315.

Malpolon monspessulanus insignitus (GEOFFROY, 1827) – observed in Agia Pelagia, near the Boeotian Kifissos river (A in Fig. 1), and near Lake Paralimni (D in Fig. 1), dead specimens on the road to Aliartos (GNHM 70312, 70313).

Telescopus fallax fallax (FLEISCHMANN, 1831) – one specimen was observed near Lake Paralimni (D in Fig. 1) in July 12. The habitat was olive groves with other cultivation, maquis and phryganic vegetation.

Vipera ammodytes meridionalis BOULENGER, 1903 – reported by CLARK (1968) from Lake Yliki, roadkills collected by the author near D in Fig. 1, in the south of Lake Yliki, and from the road to Aliartos (GNHM 5037, 5038, 6031).

Three reptile species (*Mauremys rivulata*, *Malpolon monspessulanus*, *Telescopus fallax*) were reported for the first time from this area in the present study.

A considerable number of taxa were neither observed during our study nor mentioned in the literature from the study area proper, however their presence is likely to be expected because of records from near localities (GASC et al. 1997): *Triturus cristatus*, *T. vulgaris*, *Bufo bufo*, *Pelobates syriacus*, *Rana ridibunda*, *Cyrtopodion kotschyi*, *Hemidactylus turcicus*, *Ablepharus kitaibelii*, *Chalcides ocellatus*, *Ophiomorus punctatissimus*, *Anguis fragilis*, *Lacerta viridis*, *Podarcis erhardii*, *Eryx jaculus*, *Coronella austriaca*, *Elaphe (Zamenis) longissima*, *E. quatuorlineata*, *E. (Z.) situla*, *Hierophis gemonensis*, *Platyceps najadum*.

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KEY WORDS: amphibians, reptiles, Yliki lake, Paralimni lake, Boeotian Kifissos river, Central Greece

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