

New Records of Some Herpetofauna Species in Bulgaria

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Abstract: This paper announces 68 new localities of 25 species of amphibians and reptiles in Bulgaria. Representatives of the following families are included: Salamandridae, Bufonidae, Hylidae, Ranidae, Emydidae, Testudinidae, Scincidae, Anguillidae, Lacertidae, Colubridae and Viperidae. Altitude and UTM-coordinates on the 10-kilometer grid are provided for all localities.

Key words: Amphibia, Reptilia, distribution, Bulgaria.

Introduction

The Bulgarian herpetological literature contains a number of publications on the herpetofauna distribution (BURESH, ZONKOW 1933, 1934, 1941, 1942, BESHKOV, BERON 1964, BESCHKOV 1961, etc.), nevertheless there is still some lack of clarity about the distribution of some species, as well as some "blank spots" on the map. The objective of the present paper is to make its humble contribution along these lines by announcing new localities for some species of Bulgaria's herpetofauna.

Materials and Methods

The author's personal observations from different places in Bulgaria in the period 1985-2003, as well as the observations of some colleagues were used for the purposes of this paper. The animals were not collected (with a few exceptions) in view of their protected status. The descriptions of the localities include in brackets the altitude and the UTM-code (10X10 km). This paper does not cover some very common species (such as *Rana ridibunda*, *Lacerta viridis*, etc.), which are met almost in every place with favourable conditions are favorable and the announcement of their new localities would hardly be interesting. Localities in the UTM-square (on the 10-km grid) or in the mountain of already published localities of a species are not included (with some exceptions).

Results (Descriptions of the Localities)

Triturus alpestris (LAURENTI, 1768): the pools above Novo Selo Village, Osogovo Mts. (FM37; 1200 m a.s.l.) - many times, 2000-2002.

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Triturus karelinii (STRAUCH, 1870): the pools near Egulnitsa Village, Konyavska Mts. (FN50; 700 m) - many times, 1986-1990; Dragichevo Lake and surrounding pools, Lyulin Mts. (FN72; 900-950m) - many times, 1998-2002; the pools above Novo Selo Village, Osogovo Mts. (FM37; 1200 m) - many times, but in small number, 2000-2002.

Triturus vulgaris (LINNAEUS, 1758): Dragichevo Lake and surrounding pools, Lyulin Mts. (FN72; 900-950m) - many times, 1998-2002; Bogdan Peak, Sredna Gora Mts. (KH92; 1300m) - 10 specimens, 31.03.1986; the pools above Novo Selo Village, Osogovo Mts. (FM37; 1200 m) - many times, 2000-2002.

Bufo bufo (LINNAEUS, 1758): Dragichevo Lake and surrounding pools, Lyulin Mts. (FN72; 900-950m) - many times, but in small number, 1998-2002; Kula Peak, Lyulin Mts. (FN72; 1130m) - 1 specimen in soil trap, May 2002; Mihaylovo Village, Danubian plain (GP02; 50-100 m) - many times, but in small number, 1985-1999.

Bufo viridis LAURENTI, 1768: Egulya River near Plana Village, Plana Mts. (FN90; 1100m) - 2 specimens, 08.04.1986; Slavei Hut, Golo Bardo Mts. (FN61; 950m) - 3 specimens, 30.04.1999; Poluvrak Peak, Lozen Mts. (GN01; 1100m) - 2 specimens, 29.07.1992; Gromshin Village, Danubian Plain (GP02; 50-100 m) - many times, 1985-1989; Mihailovo Village, Danubian Plain (GP02; 50-100 m) - many times, 1985-1999.

Hyla arborea (LINNAEUS, 1758): Novo Selo Village, Osogovo Mts. (FM37; 1200 m) - 2 specimens, 21.04.2000; Dragichevo Lake and surrounding pools, Lyulin Mts. (FN72; 900-950 m) - many times, 1998-2002; Bonssovi Polyani location, Lyulin Mts. (FN82; 940 m) - 1 specimen, 01.05.2002; Gromshin Village, Danubian Plain (GP02; 50-100 m) - many times, 1985-1989; Mihailovo Village, Danubian Plain (GP02; 50-100 m) - many times, 1985-1999.

Rana dalmatina BONAPARTE, 1840: Slatino Village, Rila Mts. (FM67; 550 m) - 9 specimens, 06.07.1985; Dragichevo Lake and surrounding pools, Lyulin Mts. (FN72; 900-950m) - many times, 1998-2002; Bonssovi Polyani location, Lyulin Mts. (FN82; 940 m) - 2 specimens, 01.05.2002; Manastirishte Peak, Plana Mts. (FN90; 1200 m) - 1 specimen, 16.05.2002; Saedinenie Village, Chirpan Heights (LG69; 400-450 m) - 3 specimens, 22.07.1992.

Rana graeca BOULENGER, 1891: Slatino River above Slatino Village, Rila Mts. (FM67; 550 m) - 25 specimens., 06.07.1985; Struma River near Skakavitsa Waterfall, Zemen Gorge (FM39; 650 m) - 1 specimen, 13.07.2003.

Rana temporaria LINNAEUS, 1758: Egulnitsa Village, Konyavska Mts. (FN50) - 3 specimens, 05.04.1986 and 04.04.1987.

Emys orbicularis (LINNAEUS, 1758): Ogosta River between Gromshin and Mihaylovo Villages, Danubian Plain (GP02; 50 m) - many times, 1985-1999.

Testudo graeca LINNAEUS, 1758: two kilometers NW of Bonssovi Polyani location, Lyulin Mts. (FN82; 1100 m) - 1 specimen, 05.05.2001.

Testudo hermanni GMELIN, 1789: Tihiya Kut Place, Vitosha Mts. (FN82; 1050 m) - 1 specimen, 29.07.1986; Gromshin Village, Danubian Plain (GP02; 50-100 m) - 1 specimen, June 1988.

Ablepharus kitaibelii BIBRON and BORY, 1833: Saedinenie Village, Chirpan Heights

(LG69; 400-450 m) - 12 specimens, 22.07.1992; Dzhamen Hut, Rudini Mts. (FN41; 950 m) - 2 specimens, 09.08.1987; Egulnitsa Village, Konyavska Mts. (FN50; 700 m) - many times, 1998-2002.

Anguis fragilis LINNAEUS, 1758: Three kilometers S of Plana Village, Plana Mts. (FN90; 1140 m) - 1 specimen, 08.04.1986.

Lacerta agilis LINNAEUS, 1758: Plana Village, Plana Mts. (FN90; 1050-1100 m) - many times, 1998-2001; Dolni Okol Village, Plana Mts. (GN00; 1200 m) - 5 specimens, 26.06.1994.

Lacerta praticola EVERSMAAN, 1834: between German Monastery and Zdravchov Kamak Peak, Lozen Mts. (GN01, 950-1000 m) - 4 specimens, 11.05.1996 and 26.04.2003; Opletnya Village, Stara Planina Mts. (FN97; 550 m) - 2 specimens, 03.05.1987; four kilometers SE of Gromshin Village, Danubian Plain (GP02; 50-100 m) - 2 specimen, June 1986.

Lacerta trilineata BEDRIAGA, 1886: Saedinenie Village, Chirpan Heights (LG69; 400 m) - 1 specimen, 21.07.1992; Yailata Reserve, Northern Black Sea Coast (PJ21; 50 m) - 2 specimens, 12.08.1991 and 24.06.1999.

Lacerta vivipara JACQUIN, 1787: the upper lake in Kremen Circus, Pirin Mts. (GM01; 2400 m) - 1 specimen, 18.08.2000; Ostrets Peak, Pirin Mts. (GM01; 2400 m) - 3 specimens, 17.08.2000; Ribno Ezero Lake in Vasilashki Circus, Pirin Mts. (GM02; 2150 m) - 1 specimen, 07.08.1994; Ribno Ezero Lake in Banderitsa Circus, Pirin Mts. (FM92; 2200 m) - 1 specimen, 07.08.1994; between Vihren Hut and Kabata Place, Pirin Mts. (FM92; 2300 m) - 1 specimen, 06.08.1997; Trite Buki Hut, Osogovo Mts. (FM37; 1650 m) - 4 specimens, 01.05.2001; Kyunek Peak, Osogovo Mts. (FM37; 1800 m) - 2 specimens, 21.06.2000.

Podarcis taurica (PALLAS, 1814): Saedinenie Village, Chirpan Heights (LG69; 400-450 m) - 14 specimens, 22.07.1992.

Coluber caspius GMELIN, 1789: two kilometers SE of Pastuh Village, Boboshevo Gorge (FM57; 600 m) - 1 specimen, 02.05.2001; Gromshin Village, Danubian Plain (GP02; 50-100 m) - 1 specimen, July 1986; between Mihailovo and Manastirishte villages, Danubian Plain (GP12; 70 m) - 1 specimen, 11.11.1999.

Coronella austriaca LAURENTI, 1768: two kilometers SE of Pastuh Village, Boboshevo Gorge (FM57; 600 m) - 2 specimens, 02.05.2001 and 26.04.2002; Lalina Mogila Peak, Lozen Mts. (GN01; 1040 m) - 1 specimen, 29.07.1992.

Elaphe longissima (LAURENTI, 1768): Skakavitsa St., Zemen Gorge (FM39; 650 m) - 1 specimen, 14.09.2000; Baba Peak, Pirin Mts. (FM92; 1250 m) - 1 specimen, 08.08.1994; Saedinenie Village, Chirpan Heights (LG69; 400 m) - 1 specimen, 21.07.1992; Kamen Bryag Village, Northern Black Sea Coast (PJ21; 20 m) - 1 specimen, 04.08.1991; four kilometers SE of Gromshin Village, Danubian Plain (GP02; 50-100 m) - 1 specimen, August 1985; Manastirishte Village, Danubian Plain (GP12; 50-100 m) - 1 specimen, May 1989.

Elaphe sauromates (PALLAS, 1814): four kilometers N of Dragash voyvoda Village, Danubian Plain (LJ34) - 1 specimen, 12.07.1985.

Elaphe situla (LINNAEUS, 1758): Nesebar Town, Southern Black Sea Coast (NH62; 10 m), - 1 specimen, 09.04.1986.

Vipera ammodytes (LINNAEUS, 1758): Skakavitsa Waterfall, Zemen Gorge (FM39; 650 m) - 1 specimen, 04.10.2001; two kilometers SE of Pastuh Village, Boboshevo Gorge (FM57; 600 m) - 5 specimens, 22- and 26.04.2002; Gromshin Village, Danubian Plain (GP02; 50-100 m) - 4 specimen, observed in the period 1985-1989.

Discussion

A total of 68 new localities of the 25 examined species were established. Some of the new records are quite interesting in zoogeographical as well as in ecological aspect. The species *Triturus alpestris*, *T. karelinii* and *T. vulgaris* are known for Osogovo, but in the new locality (the pools above Novo Selo Village) all the three species are met in one and the same water basin. This is the first case of this kind in Bulgaria. The fact that *Lacerta praticola* was found in the Lozen Mountain was very interesting - the species was not previously announced for the Sofia region. Furthermore this is the highest locality in Bulgaria (the species was established up to 600 m a.s.l. until now - BESHKOV, NANEV 2002). The discovery of 7 new localities of *L. vivipara* in Pirin and Osogovo is also interesting. This confirms the existence of the species in Osogovo (according to BESHKOV, NANEV 2002, by unconfirmed information the species is met in Osogovo), and the new localities in Pirin reveal that the species is met there at more places than it is presumed. A future more detailed study of the mountain would probably reveal other localities as well. *Testudo graeca* and *T. hermanni* found quite close to Sofia (in Lyulin and Vitosha, accordingly) could hardly be interpreted as remnants of localities that existed long before. It is more probable that man brought them in that area. That may also be true for *E. situla* from Nesebar. The new localities of the rest species were not a surprise and though some species were not previously reported for certain region, their discovery in the corresponding localities was expected.

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Нови данни за някои видове от херпетофауната в България

Б. Наумов

(Резюме)

Съобщават се 68 нови находища на 25 вида земноводни и влечуги в България. Включени са представители на семействата Salamandridae, Bufonidae, Hylidae, Ranidae, Emydidae, Testudinidae, Scincidae, Anguidae, Lacertidae, Colubridae и Viperidae. За всяко находище са дадени UTM-координатите по 10-километров грид и надморската височина.