

## A New Record of *Eryx jaculus* (Reptilia: Boidae) in Bulgaria

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**Abstract.** A finding of two specimens of *Eryx jaculus* (Linnaeus, 1758) at the Ostar Kamak Hill, Eastern Rhodope Mts. in June 2002 is reported. Habitat type of the locality and morphological data of the specimens are given.

**Key words:** *Eryx jaculus*, new locality, South Bulgaria.

Sand boa, *Eryx jaculus* (LINNAEUS, 1758) has a scattered distribution in Bulgaria, and due to its specific habitat preferences, it is under intensive anthropogenic pressure. According to BESHKOV, NANEV 2002 *E. jaculus* is among the most endangered species of the herpetofauna in our country. In this paper a new record of this species from Southern Bulgaria is presented.

During the field research of the Eastern Rhodope Mts. in June 2002 two specimens of *E. jaculus* were found at the locality of Ostar Kamak Hill. Juvenile specimen was caught at 17.00 on 4 June by M. Stanchev. Its measures were: L. corp. = 150 mm, L. cd. = 16 mm. Adult specimen was caught at 11.45 on 7 June by M. Naumova with measures: L. corp. = 390 mm, L. cd. = 53 mm. Six syntopic species of reptiles were found at this site: *Testudo hermanni* GMELIN, 1789 - 1 specimen; *Podarcis taurica* (PALLAS, 1814) - 1 specimen; *Lacerta trilineata* BEDRIAGA, 1886 - 6 specimens; *Lacerta viridis* (LAURENTI, 1768) - 3 specimens; *Pseudopus apodus* (PALLAS, 1775) - 11 specimens; *Malpolon monspessulanus* (HERMANN, 1804) - 1 specimen.

Ostar Kamak Hill (UTM: MG03; 280-348 m a.s.l.) is situated at about 5 km southwest of Harmanli town. The vegetation is typical submediterranean - oak groves and shrubs (mainly *Paliurus spina-christi* MILL.), the soil is sandy and rocky - this is one of the preferred habitat types of the sand boa. A new founding fills the gap between the three previously known sites - Huhla Place (near Dinevo village), Nadezhden village and Harmanli town (according to BURESCH, ZONKOV 1934). Ostar Kamak Hill is of special herpetological interest, since the two other highly endangered European reptile species inhabit this area: *Testudo hermanni* (announced in this paper) and *Elaphe sauromates* (PALLAS, 1814) (announced by BESHKOV, DUSHKOV 1981), and probably *Testudo graeca* LINNAEUS, 1758.

Received: 26.09.2005

Accepted: 27.10.2005

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## Ново находище на *Eryx jaculus* (Reptilia: Boidae) в България

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### (Резюме)

Съобщава се за намирането на 2 екземпляра *Eryx jaculus* (LINNAEUS, 1758) на възвишението Остър камък, Източни Родопи през юни 2002. Дадено е кратко описание на хабитата и размерите на екземплярите.