

# Field Report, April 20th to May 6th 2012 - Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia

by Frank Deschandol



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*Together with Jean-Paul Bovey and Pierre-Yves Vaucher, we explored the beautiful Montenegro, spending also some days in Croatia and Slovenia on the way back. But exhausted by 1 month of non-stop rains, Montenegro was under flood and we saw some very apocalyptic landscapes everywhere ! However, we managed to find a lot of reptiles, with a total of 35 Vipera ammodytes. As usual, we didn't waste our time to look for the most common global species. Unfortunately, still no luck one more time with the lack of Z. situla, P. najadum and T. fallax in spite of dedicated researches. I also missed both endemic Dinarolacerta, friends having some other interests than lizards... But for sure, this will be done in a future lonesome trip !*

*Many thanks to Jeroen Speybroeck, Teja & Rok Grželj and Matthieu Berroneau.*

Overview of the main visited places :



**\*\*\* MONTENEGRO \*\*\***

**-- On the way to the south... --**





beautiful but wet...





*Podarcis melisellensis fumanus*



*Testudo hermanni boettgeri*, young





*Emys orbicularis hellenica*, this turtle was found on asphalt road at several kilometers from a water point, photographed then released into a stream.





The very abundant *Pseudopus apodus thracicus*...

-- Near Ada island --





*Podarcis muralis albanicus*... pullulate in this area



other





other





others



*Natrix tessellata*





juvenile



*Natrix natrix persa*





other, young in situ





*Malpolon insignitus fuscus*



*Elaphe quatuorlineata*





*Dolichophis caspius*



same





same







*Emys orbicularis hellenica*





*Rana dalmatina*



*Pelophylax shqipericus*





other





our first *Vipera ammodytes*, young



other





other





other, young





other



other





same





other



same





other in situ



other in situ





very young one





other



other





same



*Podarcis melisellensis fumanus*





other







*Anguis graeca*





other



other





young





*Ophrys incubacea*





Jean-paul at work with local chair :)

-- Near Sasko Jezero --





*Pelophylax shqipericus*



other





large *Pseudopus apodus thracicus*







other





other



same





other





other



other





*Podarcis melisellensis fumanus*



other





huge *Testudo hermanni boettgeri*







other





*Natrix natrix persa*



other





other





*Natrix tessellata*

-- Near Virpazar --



*Dalmatolacerta oxycephala*





other



other





*Hierophis gemonensis*





*Natrix tessellata*, really abundant at one site



*Vipera ammodytes*





huge and beautiful one, certainly the masterpiece of our trip...





same...





... and same, just for pleasure :)





nice *Emys orbicularis hellenica*



another pattern of *Podarcis melisellensis fumanus*





*Lissotriton vulgaris graecus*





others



same male





*Bombina variegata scabra*





*Bufo bufo bufo*

-- Near Cetinje --



*Triturus macedonicus*, male





*Pelophylax ridibundus*



*Bombina variegata scabra*





same





*Ophrys tommasinii*, endemic





*Orchis pauciflora*





*Orchis quadripunctata*

-- Near Budva --





*Hierophis gemonensis*



*Lacerta trilineata*, juvenile



-- Lovćen NP --

A fast stop at Lovcen didn't allow us to see *Dinarolacerta mosorensis*, only a very few and shy *Dalmatolacerta oxycephala*, some *Podarcis muralis* and a *Zamenis longissimus* were out by that warm weather...



*Dalmatolacerta oxycephala*





*Zamenis longissimus*



on the way to Croatia, Tivat...



\*\*\* CROATIA \*\*\*

-- Near Vrana --



*Hierophis gemonensis*





other, large



*Lacerta trilineata*



-- Krka falls --



*Podarcis siculus campestris*





other



other



-- In a mountain --

At a known spot, we were looking for *Vipera ursinii macrops*. Lucky, we were able to find several specimens, only one male seen though... Also two *Vipera ammodytes* on the same spot



*Vipera ursinii macrops*, in situ





*Vipera ursinii macrops*



same





other





same



huge female





same



male





same





other



other





same



*Vipera ammodytes*





other







male





other





subadult





*Dactylorhiza sambucina*, yellow





*Dactylorhiza sambucina*

-- Lowlands at the same place --





*Podarcis melisellensis fumanus*



other





*Lacerta viridis*







*Orchis morio*

-- Near Krupa --





*Bufo bufo bufo*, amplexus



*Pelophylax ridibundus*





*Elaphe quatuorlineata*





same



the result of the abundance of *V. ammodytes*...

-- Near Gračac --





*Lacerta viridis*



other





other, like a spotlight in the dark !





*Anguis sp. (fragilis ?)*



*Coronella austriaca*

-- Near Udbina --





same habitat for cows...



... and snakes, *Vipera ammodytes*. We quickly found there 9 snakes within half an hour





other





same



other





*Podarcis muralis albanicus*

-- On the way to Krasno --





*Zamenis longissimus*

-- Near Krasno --





*Vipera ammodytes*



other



**\*\*\* SLOVENIA \*\*\***

**-- Near Postojna --**

Happy to meet with Rok and Teja in the field, some nice animals were found during these 2 days



*Vipera ammodytes*





same





herpers...





*Vipera ammodytes*



same





other





other



other





Jean-Paul finding another seat :)





*Zamenis longissimus*



*Vipera berus berus*





*Emys orbicularis orbicularis*





*Lacerta agilis argus*, male





same



young





other young





**Reptiles (24) :**

*Emys orbicularis hellenica*  
*Emys orbicularis orbicularis*  
*Testudo hermanni boettgeri*  
*Dalmatolacerta oxycephala*  
*Algyroides nigropunctatus*  
*Lacerta bilineata* (?)  
*Lacerta viridis*  
*Lacerta trilineata major*  
*Lacerta agilis bosnica*  
*Lacerta agilis argus*  
*Podarcis muralis albanicus*  
*Podarcis melisellensis fumanus*  
*Podarcis siculus campestris*  
*Anguis fragilis*  
*Anguis graeca*  
*Pseudopus apodus thracicus*  
*Natrix natrix persa*  
*Natrix tessellata*  
*Hierophis gemonensis*  
*Elaphe quatuorlineata*  
*Dolichophis caspius*  
*Malpolon insignitus fuscus*  
*Coronella austriaca*  
*Zamenis longissimus*  
*Vipera berus berus*  
*Vipera ammodytes ammodytes*  
*Vipera ursinii macrops*

**Amphibians (8) :**

*Hyla arborea*  
*Bufo bufo bufo*  
*Bombina variegata scabra*  
*Triturus macedonicus*  
*Lissotriton vulgaris graecus*  
*Rana dalmatina*  
*Pelophylax ridibundus*  
*Pelophylax shqipericus*



**Total = 32 spp.**