

Field Report, April 27th to June 9th 2011 - Corsica, Sardinia, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia

by Frank Deschandol



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*For the 2nd trip of the year, I enjoyed a 'jumbo european herp tour' in 4 different countries. So big trip (and because a little bit lazy too) that I considerably reduced the text to a minimum for that current report. Regarding the first part (Corsica-Sardinia), I followed with my own car, Jeroen (B), Bert (B) and Bobby (NL), making together a wonderful circuit on both islands, despite some unfortunate troubles with their rented car (Jeroen's report [here](#)). My primary pleasure was to see all species and subspecies of *Speleomantes* from Europe within only one trip, great pride for me !*

*For the last main part of the trip, I met Pierre-Yves Vaucher (CH) in Croatia on May 20th and a few days later Berislav Horvatić (HR) in Zagreb. We explored together many places, but maybe too late in the season to find as many species as we wished. Even "easy" snakes like *Vipera ammodytes* were hardly found while *Elaphe quatuorlineata* was seen only by a single dead on road specimen... Same with *Zamenis situla* and *Platyceps najadum*, our main target, but always hard to find alive. Then, I said goodbye to Berislav and Pierre-Yves, ending the trip alone to Slovenia and Italy, mainly for amphibians.*

Total km : >10.000 km - 9636 pictures = 260 Go

Main visited sites :



Many thanks to our companionship Dr Berislav Horvatić and also to Ivo Peranic, Dušan Jelić, Jean-Marc Moingeon, Wouter Beukema, Emanuele Biggi, Mr. and Mrs. Knollmann and special acknowledgment to Jeroen Speybroeck and Pierre-Yves Vaucher for their great help during and after the trip ; my success and this report is theirs.

Given localities are always approximate

*** CORSICA ***

-- Near Portigliolo --



First shy *Podarcis tiliguerta* male



Pelophylax lessonae bergeri



other



Plenty of...



Bufo viridis balearicus



Hyla sarda



Hierophis viridiflavus viridiflavus



other



young



Bobby, Jeroen and Bert at work...



...on this awesome melanistic *Natrix natrix corsa*



same



other



other, big female



other female and male



young



landscape



Orchis papilionacea



Serapias vomeracea

-- Near Bavella --



Discoglossus montalentii



other



other



other



other



Discoglossus sardus



other



other



other



other



Euproctus montanus, amplexus



others



female



other



male



same



female



Pelophylax lessonae bergeri is everywhere...



...as well as *Hyla sarda*

-- Near Vizzavona --



Salamandra corsica



other



other



other



other



Discoglossus montalentii with strange blue spots



Orchis provincialis

-- Near Porto-Vecchio --



Bufo viridis balearicus



other



other



young



Discoglossus sardus



other



mistake...



Serapias parviflora



Serapias lingua

-- Near Bonifacio --



Archaeolacerta bedriagae bedriagae



Podarcis tiliguerta, male



other



other



female

*** SARDINIA ***



-- Near Olbia --



Chalcides ocellatus tiligugu



big one with scars



Emys orbicularis capolongoi



Testudo marginata sarda



other



same



other



Empusa pennata

-- Near Lula --



Speleomantes flavus



other



other



other



same



Bobby enjoying our first species of *Speleomantes*...



Strange men seeking for...



...strange brown frogs, *Hyla sarda*



other



other



other

-- Near Nuoro --



again *Hyla sarda*



other



Bufo viridis balearicus, male calling



amplexus



Natrix maura



Chalcides ocellatus tiligugu



other



Speleomantes supramontis



same



other



other



other



other



other



Podarcis siculus siculus (syn. *cettii*), male



same



other



other



Algyroides fintzingeri



same



other



Chalcides ocellatus tiligugu, young



Chalcides chalcides vittatus



same



Podarcis tiliguerta, male



other



other



other



female



Natrix maura



Hierophis viridiflavus viridiflavus



other



other !



too late for *Limodorum abortivum*...



Orchis papilionacea



Orchis longicornu



Orchis longicornu (f. *alba*)

-- Near Lanusei --



Speleomantes imperialis (*f. funereus*)



same



same



young



same



other



Miniopterus schreibersii

Near Villasalto :



Speleomantes imperialis (f. *funereus*)



same, the green thing on the leg is a bloodsucker



other



same

-- Sette Fratelli --



Euproctus platycephalus, male



other



other



other



other



young



other young



Natrix natrix cetti



same



other



same



Jeroen and Bert photographing the "beast"



Speleomantes sarrabusensis



same



other



same



other



same



young





other



Podarcis tiliguerta



Algyroides fitzingeri

-- Near Cagliari --



Speleomantes everywhere ! *Speleomantes genei* ssp. A



others



other



other



other



other



young



Ophrys neglecta



Aceras anthropophorum



Serapias parviflora



Speleomantes genei ssp. B



same



other



same

-- Near San Vero Milis --



habitat of...



Testudo graeca nabeulensis



other



other



other



...and *Chalcides ocellatus tiligugu*, one of the most common reptile in Sardinia...



...with *Hierophis viridiflavus* !



Bufo viridis balearicus



Libelloides ictericus



I agree, time to eat and drink beer !

-- Monte Limbara --



site



Archaeolacerta bedriagae sardoa (paessleri)



same



not very shy !



other



other



other



other

-- on the way... --



Emys orbicularis capalongoi



Algyroides fitzingeri

-- Near Alghero --



Natrix maura



Podarcis tiliguerta



Emys orbicularis capolongoi



same





other



other



same



other



same



Bufo viridis balearicus



Hemidactylus turcicus



other



Bufo viridis balearicus



other



Ischnura genei



Lestes macrostigma



Ophrys neglecta



Serapias lingua



Last warm night together on the beach. Then, I travelled alone for an additional week on the islands...

-- Near Salina Bamba --



Landscape



Podarcis tiliguerta



other



Podarcis siculus siculus (syn. *cettii*), male



Euleptes europaea



other



gravid female



same



Tarentola mauritanica



Bufo viridis balearicus

-- Near Paduledda --



big exogenous *Pelophylax* sp.



Natrix maura



problem... of UV filter fortunately

*** CORSICA ***

-- Near Figari --



Testudo hermanni hermanni



other



Discoglossus sardus



Orchis laxiflora



Serapias vomeracea, atypical



Serapias lingua

-- Near Ventiseri --



Emys orbicularis lanzai



same



other



Trachemys scripta elegans and *Emys orbicularis lanzai*



Natrix natrix corsa



young



same



again *Hierophis viridiflavus* here



Hyla sarda, amplexus



same



Discoglossus sardus



Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis, female

-- Near Zonza --



Archaeolacerta bedriagae bedriagae



same



other



other



young



Podarcis tiliguerta



other



other



other



other



other with 2 tails...



Podarcis siculus campestris



Potosia cuprea cuprea



Cetonia aurata pisana



Cetonia aurata pisana



Cetonia aurata pisana

*** ITALY ***

-- Near Pietrasanta --



Speleomantes italicus (introgr.)



other



other



other



other



young

-- Near Sarzana --



Speleomantes ambrosii bianchii (introgr.)



other



same



other



other

On another site :



Speleomantes ambrosii bianchii (pure)



same



same



other



same



young



same



Salamandra salamandra gigliolii, young



Rana italica



other



other

-- Near Cassana --



Natrix natrix helvetica



Speleomantes ambrosii ambrosii



other



other



other



other



other

-- Near Rapallo --



Bombina variegata pachypus



other



other



other



eggs of...



Salamandrina perspicillata



other



other



other



other



Podarcis muralis nigriventris, male



same



female



Libelloides coccajus

-- Near Casella --



Speleomantes strinatii



other



other



other



other



other



other



food... (*Limonia nubeculosa*)



Rana italica



other



Zamenis longissimus, young

-- Near Rallio --



beautiful site



hotspot for newts...



so let's go



Ichthyosaura alpestris apuanus, male



other



other



female



stop MacDo !



'hydrops' disease (thanks to Jeroen)



Triturus carnifex, male



other male



female



Platanthera bifolia



Ophrys insectifera

-- Near Precenicco --



Rana latastei



Rana dalmatina



Hyla intermedia



Lissotriton vulgaris meridionalis, male



other



female



the big *Procrustes coriaceus*

*** CROATIA ***

-- Istria --



brown *Hierophis viridiflavus carbonarius*



other



other



same



Zamenis longissimus



Algyroides nigropunctatus



other



Podarcis siculus campestris



Parnassius mnemosyne

-- Pag island --



Landscape with Berislav looking for reptiles



Pseudopus apodus thracius



other



other



other



Emys orbicularis hellenica



young



baby



Testudo hermanni boettgeri



other



other



other



other



young



baby



Lacerta trilineata major, young



Podarcis siculus campestris



Hierophis gemonensis



Pierre-Yves and Berislav with *H. gemonensis*...



Libelloides macaronius

-- On the way to the Velebit Mountains --



large *Zamenis longissimus* (>1.50 m)



Malpolon insignitus fuscus



same

-- On a *Vipera ursinii* spot --



Thanks to the crew for finding...



...this nice *Vipera ursinii macrops*



same



young



same



other



Lacerta agilis bosnica, male



other



other



female



Podarcis muralis albanicus



Dactylorhiza sambucina



Orchis ovalis

Same area but in the lowlands and Prezid pass :



Vipera ammodytes ammodytes



same



Natrix natrix persa



other



Lacerta viridis



other



other



other



other



other



Podarcis melisellensis fiumanus



other



other



Podarcis muralis albanicus



Anguis fragilis



Megodontus caelatus dalmatinus



Orchis tridentata



Ophrys tetraloniae ?

-- Near Slunj --



Salamandra salamandra salamandra, gravid female



other subadult



baby

-- Near Okuje --



Vipera berus bosniensis



same



other smaller



same

-- South Zagreb --



Lacerta viridis



Coronella austriaca



huge *Natrix natrix persa* (about 1.40 m)



same



"wild" swarm of bees on a trunk

-- Near Udbina --



Vipera ammodytes ammodytes



same

-- Near Vransko Jezero --



Vipera ammodytes ammodytes



Zamenis situla, young



same



Platyceps najadum dahlii





same



Natrix tessellata



young



Anguis fragilis



Pseudopus apodus thracicus



Podarcis siculus campestris



other



Lacerta trilineata major



Unwise *Testudo hermanni boettgeri*



other



other



other



other



other



Prionotropis hystrix hystrix



Prionotropis hystrix hystrix, grey



Syntomis phegea, mating



Cerambyx scopolii, mating



Calosoma sycophanta

-- Vir island --



Vipera ammodytes ammodytes



Malpolon insignitus fuscus



the famous *Lindenia tetraphylla*

*** SLOVENIA ***

-- Near Postojna --



Proteus anguinus anguinus



same



other



same



same



Coronella austriaca, found at 4 meters on an old tower along with...



...*Zamenis longissimus*, both in the same hole !



where is the snake ?



another *Zamenis longissimus*



Iberolacerta horvathi



other



Orchis ustulata

*** ITALY ***

-- Near Trento --



Salamandra atra aurorae, always very difficult to find...



same



other



same

A few kilometers further :



Difficult to find the way in the mist, but...



...I'm on ! *Salamandra atra pasubiensis*, 8 found, 3 was running in the grass at 11h00 AM



same



other



other



other



other



other fully black



young



baby

-- Monte Viso --



habitat of...



...*Salamandra lanzai*, about 15 found by night



other



other



Nigritella corneliana



Dactylorhiza sambucina

Reptiles (38) :

Testudo hermanni hermanni
Testudo hermanni boettgeri (+ "hercegovinensis")
Testudo graeca nabeulensis
Testudo marginata sarda
Emys orbicularis lanzai
Emys orbicularis capolongoi

Emys orbicularis hellenica
Trachemys scripta elegans
Tarentola mauritanica
Hemidactylus turcicus
Euleptes europaea
Algyrodes fitzingeri
Algyrodes nigropunctatus
Archaeolacerta bedriagae bedriagae
Archaeolacerta bedriagea sardoa (paessleri)
Podarcis tiliguerta
Podarcis siculus siculus (cettii)
Podarcis siculus campestris
Podarcis muralis albanicus
Podarcis muralis maculiventris
Podarcis muralis nigriventris
Podarcis melisellensis fumanus
Iberolacerta horvathi
Lacerta agilis bosnica
Lacerta viridis
Lacerta bilineata
Lacerta trilineata major
Chalcides chalcides vittatus
Chalcides ocellatus tiligugu
Pseudopus apodus thraciensis
Anguis fragilis
Coronella austriaca
Hierophis viridiflavus viridiflavus
Hierophis viridiflavus carbonarius
Hierophis gemonensis
Elaphe quatuorlineata
Zamenis situla
Zamenis longissimus
Malpolon insignitus fuscus
Platyceps najadum dahlii
Natrix maura
Natrix tessellata
Natrix natrix helvetica
Natrix natrix persa
Natrix natrix corsa
Natrix natrix cetti
Vipera ursinii macrops
Vipera ammodytes ammodytes
Vipera berus bosniensis

Amphibians (33) :

Salamandra corsica
Salamandra salamandra salamandra
Salamandra salamandra gigliolii
 Salamandra atra aurorae
 Salamandra atra pasubiensis
 Salamandra lanzai
 Salamandrina perspicillata
 Proteus anginus anginus
 Euproctus montanus
 Euproctus platycephalus
 Speleomantes flavus
 Speleomantes supramontis
 Speleomantes imperialis (f. funereus)
 Speleomantes sarrabusensis
 Speleomantes genei ssp. A
 Speleomantes genei ssp. B
 Speleomantes ambrosii ambrosii
 Speleomantes ambrosii bianchii
 Speleomantes italicus (introgr.)
 Speleomantes strinatii
 Discoglossus montalentii
 Discoglossus sardus
 Bufo viridis balearicus
 Bufo spinosus
 Bombina variegata variegata
 Bombina variegata pachypus
 Hyla sarda
 Hyla arborea
 Hyla intermedia
 Pelophylax lessonae bergeri
 Pelophylax ridibundus
 Pelophylax kl. esculentus
 Pelophylax sp.
 Rana italica
 Rana dalmatina
 Rana latastei
 Triturus carnifex
 Lissotriton vulgaris meridionalis
 Ichthyosaura alpestris apuanus

Total = 71 spp.