

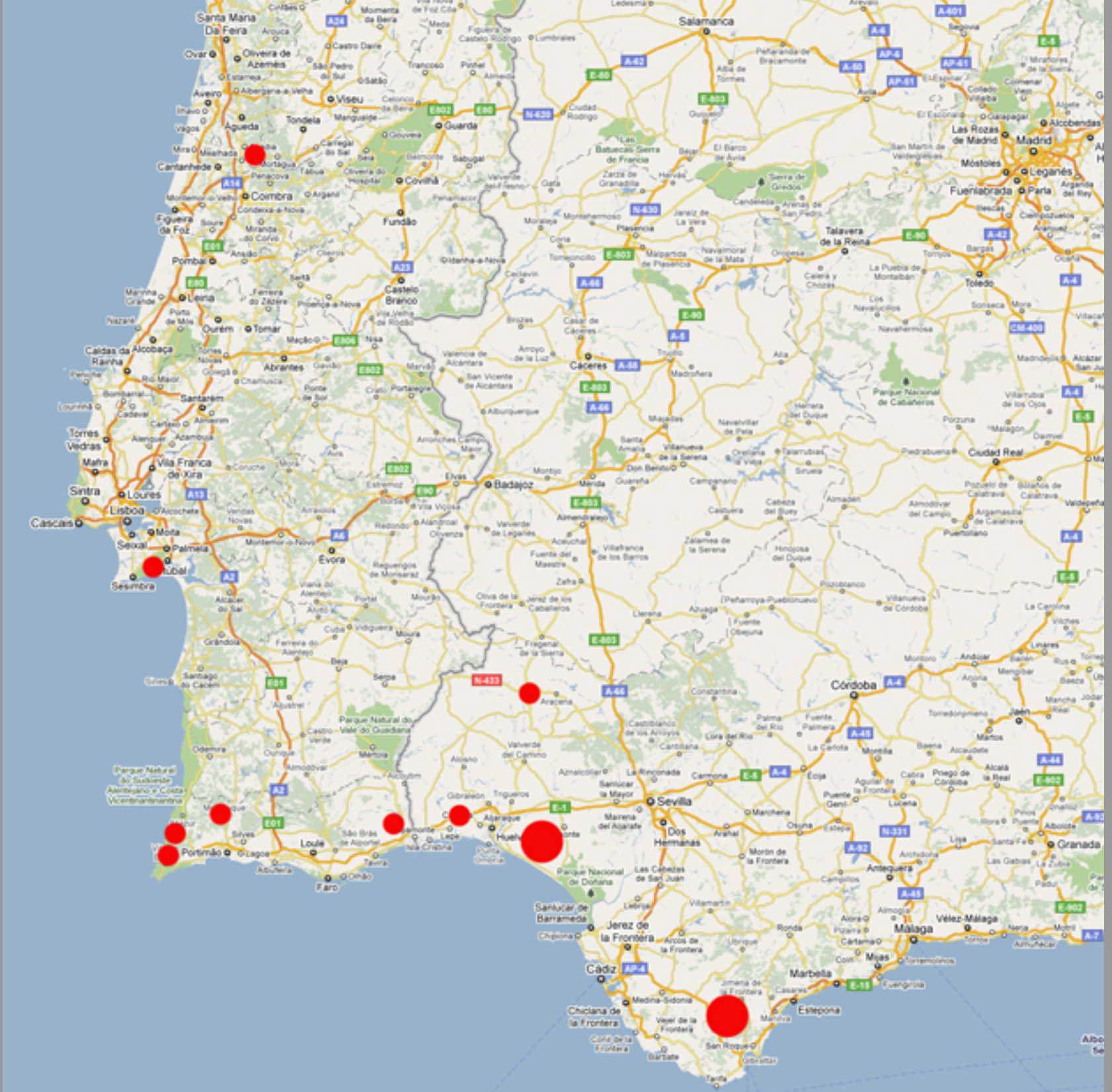
Field Report, December 14th to 29th 2010 - Portugal, Spain

by Frank Deschandol



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From 14th to 29th December, I visited southern Portugal/Spain, amphibians being the most part of the goal. I made partly the trip with Jeroen Speybroeck, Jan Van der Voort, Bobby Bok and Sander Schagen, the '50% Belgian/Dutchman team'. Thanks to all just as Vasco Flores Cruz, David Donaire, Wouter Beukema, Mirjam Van de Vliet and Onno for their precious help.



Serra de Monchique (Portugal) :

From Le Havre, north of France, I made a direct drive to Monchique, spending one frozen night near Valladolid. Once on the area, a short search by day on 2 known sites gave only one *Salamandra salamandra crespoi* under a stone, but by 4-5°C... not a big surprise.



Salamandra salamandra crespoi

Surroundings of Vila do Bispo (Portugal) :

Next, I reached Vila do Bispo, extreme SW of Portugal, but the T° was still rather cold (5°c) and the strong wind didn't help. However, I found a lot of *Lissotriton boscai maltzani*, a few *Triturus pygmaeus* and *Pelophylax perezi*. Also tadpoles of *Pelobates cultripes*. A few calls of *Pelodytes sp.* (nov.). I meet in the evening Jeroen, Jan, Bobby, Sander, Mirjam and Onno, ready for a great exploration.

At another place, a search with the friends allowed us to see : *Discoglossus galganoi galganoi*, *Pelobates cultripes*, *Pleurodeles waltl*, *Lissotriton boscai maltzani*, *Triturus pygmaeus*, *Pelophylax perezi*, only one *Pelodytes sp.*, *Bufo calamita* and *Bufo spinosus*. The next day, a little bit warmer and... "moist" :) all amphibians were outside, with of course a true carnage everywhere on roads. *Pelodytes* were calling in large number. We added *Hyla meridionalis* on our list.



Pelophylax perezii



Triturus pygmaeus, male



other



female



other



same



other



same



Lissotriton boscai maltzani, male



other



other



other, female



Bufo calamita, female



Bufo calamita, male



Pelobates cultripes



Triturus pygmaeus



other



other with truncated tail



very young female



other, male



herpers at work... Onno and Mirjam at foreground



Pelodytes sp.



other



other



other



Discoglossus galganoi galganoi, female



other



Back to Serra de Monchique (Portugal) :

I reached once again Monchique in a hurry, but this time, rain and 15°C is enough to admire 15 *Salamandra salamandra crespoi*. 2 other ones were found near Foia. Also another dead on road.



Salamandra salamandra crespoi



other



same



other



other



other



other



other



other



other



other



strange other



same



herpers at work... Wouter and his father (on the left) joined us for a - too - short time

Near Monte Gordo (Portugal) :

A nice spot where we were able to see only one *Alytes cisternasii* found by Bobby and Sander. Also some *Salamandra salamandra* of undetermined subspecies, maybe a transition form between *crepoi* and *morenica*.



Salamandra salamandra crespoides x *S. s. morenica* ?



Alytes cisternasii, male with eggs

Alcalá de los Gazules / Alcornocales (Spain) :

Large flood in this part of Spain, I've never seen a such thing. Then, not easy to make pictures outside...But for the good news, amphibians were rather easy to find, especially on the road (dead and alive). *Pelodytes ibericus* was calling everywhere in large number. A night drive gave 2 small *Salamandra salamandra longirostris*, but the Jeroen's team was more lucky finding 3 *Salamandra* whose a huge pregnant female. The same night, I decided to reach a place where a population of *S. s. longirostris* is known. About 1 hour of shit night walk under the heavy rain, but fortunately I did find 5 big salamanders. Also *Discoglossus galganoi jeanneae*.



Pelodytes ibericus, female



male



other



other



other



Discoglossus galganoi jeanneae



Salamandra salamandra longirostris, female



other



other big gravid female



other



same



other



young

Near Jabugo (Spain) :

To profit from the rain, I made a crazy long drive to a known place, a deep artificial canal (almost without water), where 15 *Salamandra salamandra morenica* were trapped. I picked up all salamanders to release them near the Rio. I found 3 more *Salamandra* (alive) by a night drive, *Pleurodeles* and *Discoglossus* dead and a lot of big *Bufo spinosus* alive or killed on road.



Salamandra salamandra morenica



other



other



other



other



same



same



other



other



other



other



other



same



Bufo calamita, male

Campofrio (Spain) :

A short stop to Campofrio, but only 3 *Lissotriton boscai boscai* could be found under stones.



Lissotriton boscai boscai, female



male

Doñana (Spain) :

A few *Alytes cisternasii* calling here along with a single *Discoglossus galganoi galganoi* on the path, several *Podarcis vaucheri* at El Rocio and also some discreet *Podarcis carbonelli*...



Alytes cisternasii, young



Podarcis vaucheri, male



Astraeus hygrometricus

Near Cartaya (Spain) :

Another Jeroen's spot, and after a consequent research, we managed to find one *Coronella girondica*. I found another one alone the next day with a *Macroprotodon brevis ibericus*, while the friends were going back home. Also *Psammodromus occidentalis*, *Tarentola mauritanica* and *Bufo calamita*.



Coronella girondica



other



Macroprotodon brevis ibericus





and again a *Bufo calamita*, female

Serra de Grandola (Portugal) :

Further North, I spent one day at a Wouter's spot, checking for amazing *Salamandra salamandra crespoi* aff. *gallaica* patterns, but in spite of a rainy evening, T° was too cold (5°C). I only saw some larvae in the stream, with a few *Pelophylax perezi*. I found a subadult quickly by day, but after lifting about 50 stones and logs or so, the density seemed to be very low. In the Christmas night, under the rain, I couldn't find any Salamandra out. But while going back to my car, I lifted up a small log, maybe the last one still in place, and finally found a big female. I decided to move a small pile of wood next to this log and saw a big "tiger" male walking on a branch...



Salamandra salamandra crespoi aff. *gallaica*, male



same



same



female, very short tail...



same



subadult female, very short tail again...



same



Pleurodeles waltl, young

Serra de Arrabida (Portugal) :

Seeking *Salamandra salamandra gallaica*, but strictly nothing outside here in spite of a rainy night and about 6°C....

Near Coimbra (Portugal) :

Difficult to find something by 3°C, except hundred of Salamandra larvae, so only one *Chioglossa lusitanica lusitanica* could be seen in the dark. Knowing the weather, I stayed at that place the next day ; a better day, warmer in the night (7°C). A few rains started to fall in the afternoon. Later, at a known spot by a stream, at last 10 *Salamandra salamandra gallaica* were outside, several *Chioglossa* and *Rana iberica*. In the middle of the night (3h30 AM), a strong rain made me rise out my bed to check once again the same place. 10 new *Salamandra* were found !



Chioglossa lusitanica lusitanica



same



same



other



Rana iberica



other



Salamandra salamandra gallaica



awesome " armband 308 " !!



other



same



other



same



other female



other



other male



same



other



other



other



other



same



other



Donostia-San Sebastián (Spain) :

On the way back to France, I decided to make a short stoppage in the town, trying to see some *Podarcis liolepis sebastiani* on a scenic place. A nice sunny day, 21°C. Unfortunately, the road was closed (permanently ?) with a barrier recently built. So I continued my way leading to Le Havre and reached my home in the evening.

Reptiles (6) :

Tarentola mauritanica
Psammodromus occidentalis
Podarcis carbonelli carbonelli
Podarcis vaucheri
Coronella girondica
Macroprotodon brevis ibericus

Amphibians (15) :

Pelobates cultripipes
Pelodytes ibericus
Pelodytes sp. (nov.)
Discoglossus galganoi galganoi
Discoglossus galganoi jeanneae
Hyla meridionalis
Rana iberica
Pelophylax perezi
Alytes cisternasii
Bufo spinosus
Bufo calamita
Pleurodeles waltl
Chioglossa lusitanica lusitanica
Triturus pygmaeus
Lissotriton boscai boscai
Lissotriton boscai maltzani
Salamandra salamandra longirostris
Salamandra salamandra morenica
Salamandra salamandra crespoides
Salamandra salamandra gallaica
Salamandra salamandra crespoides aff. gallaica
Salamandra salamandra crespoides x S. s. morenica ?

Total = 21 spp.

