## Field Photo Report, March to August 2014 - Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, Italy, France



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This field report merge several little trips to Slovenia, including a few days in April/May with Jérôme Maran, Frédéric Lavail, Yoann Wyon... We (Pierre-Yves Vaucher, my girlfriend and myself) were helping them to make their new film about SLO herpetofauna. Then a 10 days trip to Croatia made in May with Pierre-Yves Vaucher, followed later by 15 days in Montenegro/Croatia in June (just me & my girlfriend). Then I stopped on a few known spots during the way back to my home, in Italy and France, late June (I was alone). And again a short trip to Italy, on the way back to Slovenia. A lot of species were find, but the goal of those trips was mainly to get new pictures of a few (sub)species and at the same time, to find a couple of new endemic species (Dinarolacerta montenegrina and mosorensis). Thus, all encountered animals have not been photographed. In Montenegro we found all species of the country except Typhlops vermicularis, Rana graeca and Zamenis situla. During that last trip with my car in the Balkans, we could find: x22 Vipera ammodytes, x9 Vipera berus bosniensis, x21 Vipera ursinii macrops (because of x3 gravid females!), x5 Elaphe quatuorlineata, x6 Malpolon insignitus fuscus, x2 Telescopus fallax, plenty of Natrix spp. and the huge amount of exactly x110 Testudo hermanni boettgeri! Furthermore, we saw many dead animals on roads; sadly, daily in huge number, especially snakes... We also still missed Platyceps najadum dahlii in spite of numerous specific research. That one was seen alive only once, while 3 of them were freshly killed on road.

Due to the threat of many species seen, no place will be given here.

Many thanks to Jérôme Maran, Pierre-Yves Vaucher, Matthieu Berroneau, Bobby Bok, Jeroen Speybroeck, Konrad Mebert, Viki Kraševecand and a lot of people everywhere in Montenegro for their invitation and their delicious "Brandy"...:)



Main spots

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



Rana arvalis, male



Vipera berus berus, melanistic



same, pitch black





other large specimen



same



other



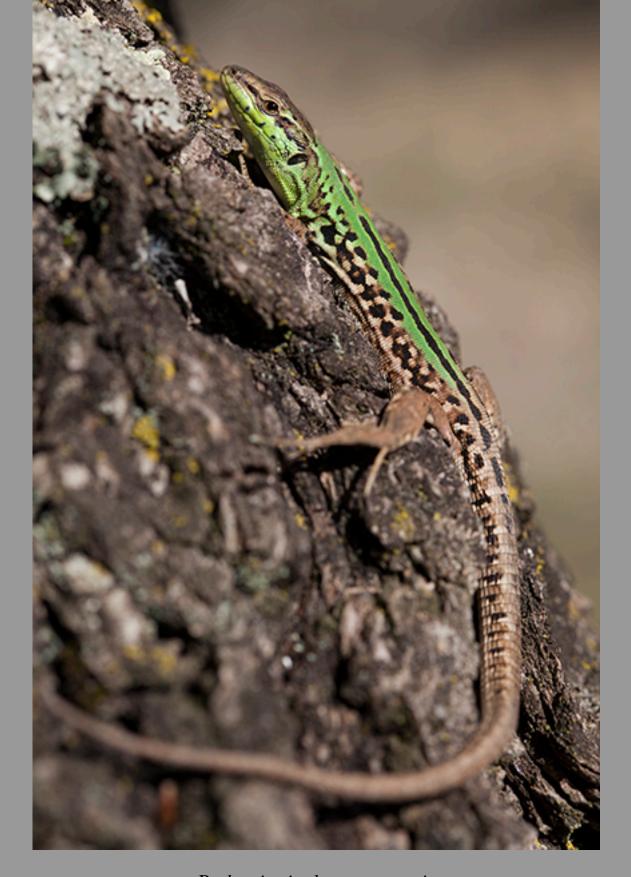
same



## Zamenis longissimus



Lacerta agilis argus, female



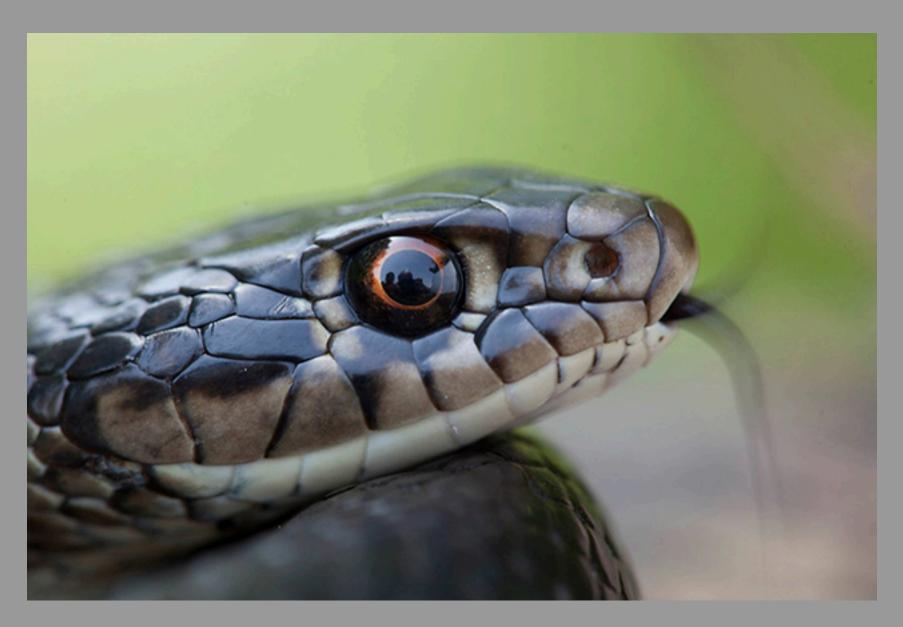
Podarcis siculus campestris



Iberolacerta horvathi



Hierophis viridiflavus carbonarius



same





Salamandra atra prenjensis from the south



other



other



Coronella austriaca austriaca





Bombina variegata variegata



Strange Rana temporaria



Vipera ammodytes ammodytes, same individual already found two years ago!



other specimen, found while searching for *Vipera aspis francisciredi*... Later, we went back at the same place, meeting Konrad Mebert, unfortunately without luck, once again...



same



Proteus anguinus parkelj, notice the true eyes comparing to the white Proteus



same



## Black Proteus' habitat



Antheraea yamamai, male



Cephalanthera rubra

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



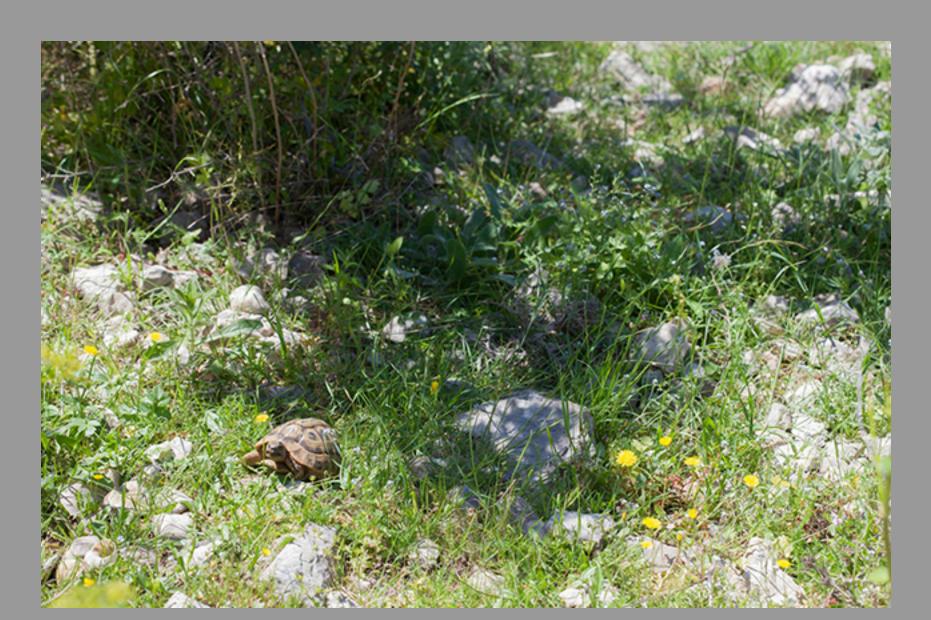
View from Pag island, beautiful...



...but some areas on mainland are still dangerous



Testudo hermanni boettgeri, young





Malpolon insignitus fuscus, tongue up....



...and down!



other



x3 *Malpolon* were seen at exactly the same place, near a stone wall, I only could catch 2 of them.



other



same



Vipera berus bosniensis, melanistic



## Podarcis siculus campestris



other at a dump site



Bufo viridis (probably ssp. viridis), male



other, young



Elaphe quatuorlineata





Algyroides nigropunctatus, surprisingly either invisible or rare during all our trips



other



young



Podarcis melisellensis fiumanus, and more patterns below:







other



other



other





same



other



other



other





other



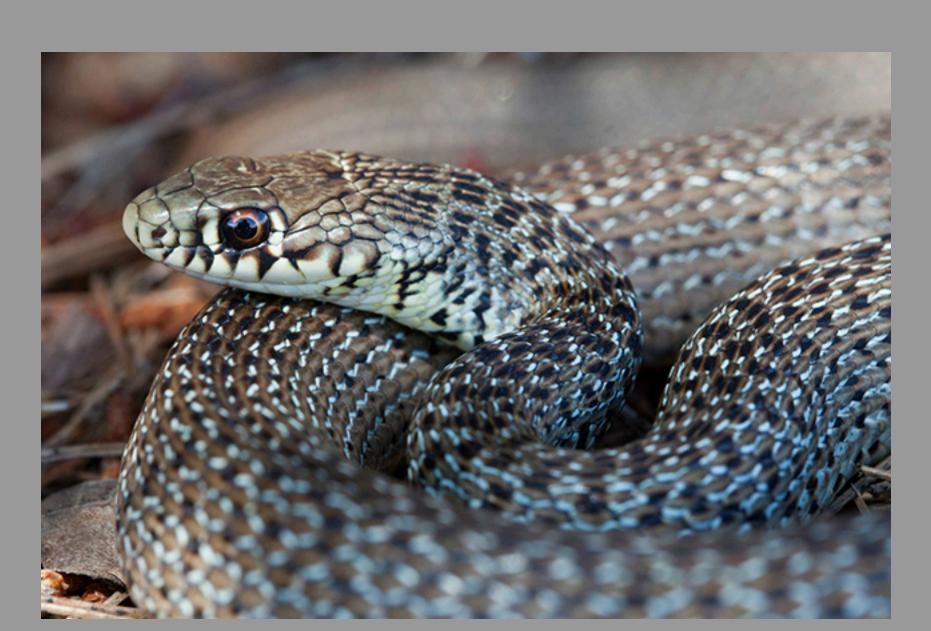
other



Hierophis gemonensis, in situ



other





Lacerta trilineata major



Lacerta viridis, male



female



Vipera ammodytes ammodytes





other



same



other



other





Pseudopus apodus thracius... always abundant



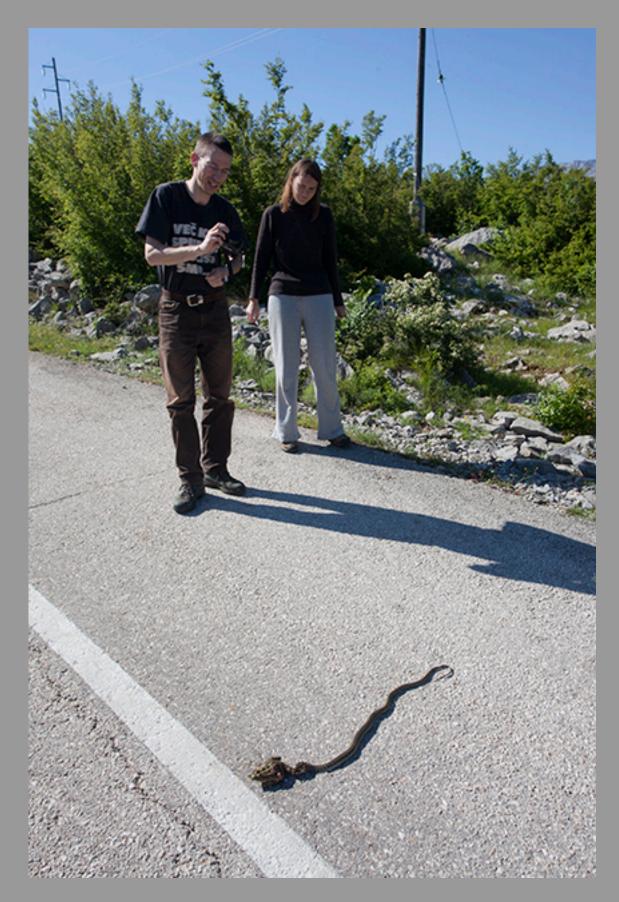
Awesome fight in the middle of the road, under a burning sun !After a while, the snake gave up the job, and went into a bush...



Watch the movie!







Slovenian tourists



one of the numerous Emys orbicularis hellenica, in situ, on Pag island

\*\*\* MONTENEGRO (+ALBANIA) \*\*\*



Rest for the car after a pretty shitty "road", up in the mountains...



Scutari lake



Dry and hot in Albania



Vipera berus bosniensis, very difficult to find on the place, the strong wind didn't help the 1st day.



other



same



other



same







other



baby



Vipera ursinii macrops, gravid female. I was probably the fastest guy ever in the word of finding a Vipera ursinii in the field, taking less than 1 minute after leaving the car!



other female



other female



Vipera ammodytes ammodytes





other



other



other



other





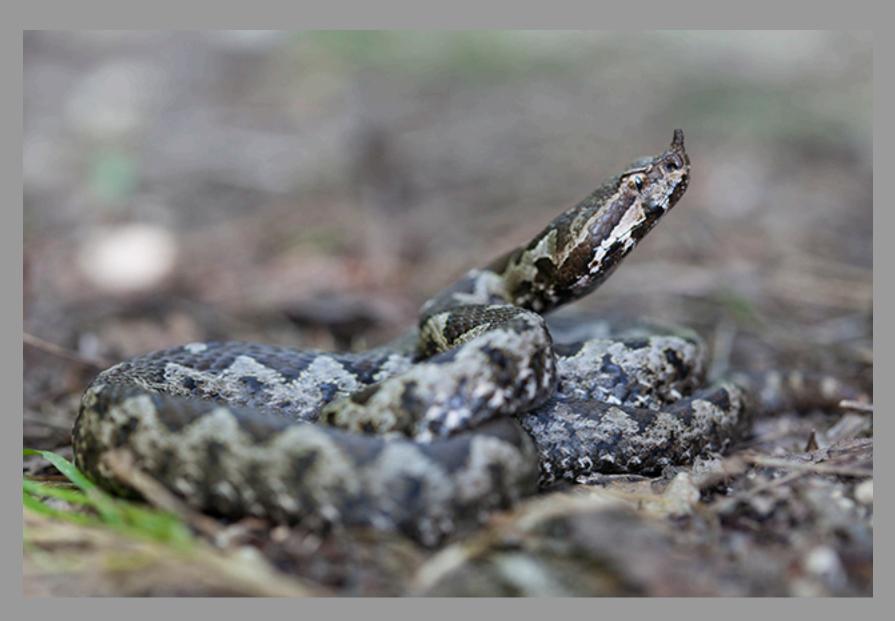
same



other



other



other





Telescopus fallax fallax



same

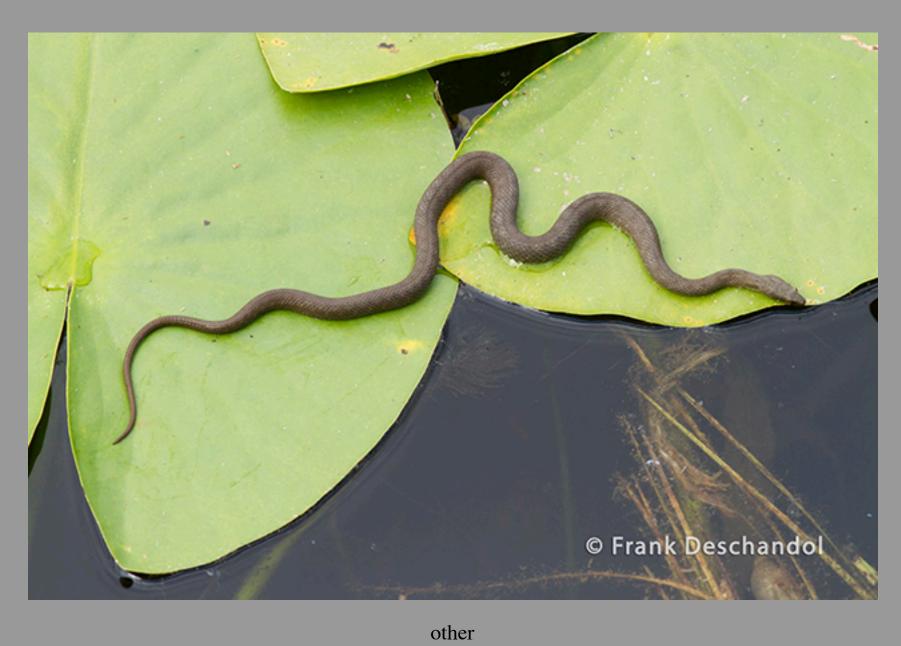




young



## Natrix tessellata





Natrix natrix persa



other



other





Malpolon insignitus fuscus



other



other



other



## Elaphe quatuorlineata



same



young



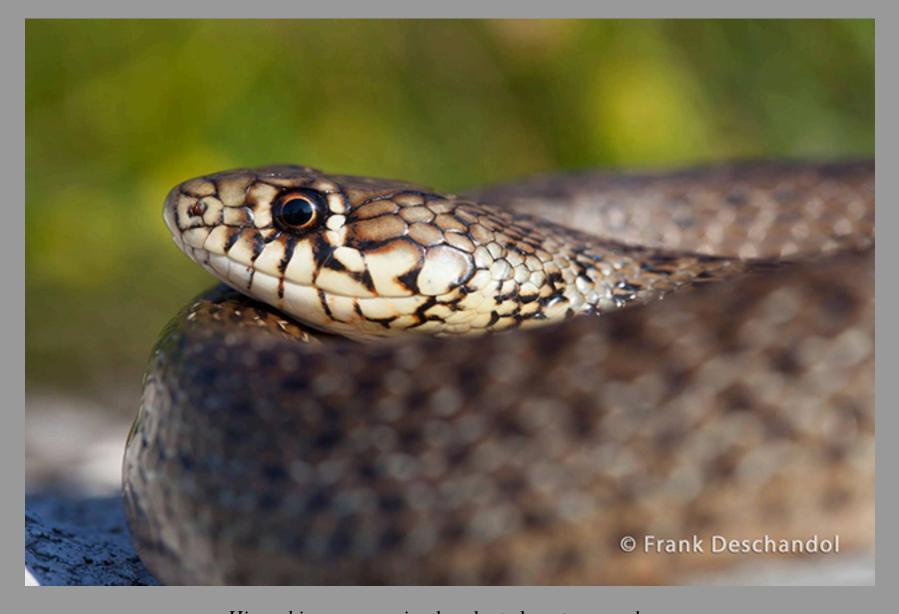
other young



Dolichophis caspius, hard to see and to catch but I managed to find at least one, as in 2012, at exactly the same place



same



Hierophis gemonensis, abundant almost everywhere



Anguis graeca





Pseudopus apodus, young



same



Dalmatolacerta oxycephala



other





Lacerta agilis bosnica, female



other



other



male



## Zootoca vivipara



Lacerta trilineata major



Lacerta viridis, male and female



Podarcis muralis albanicus



Dinarolacerta mosorensis







other



other



other



## Dinarolacerta montenegrina





other



other



other



Hey you're cute, can you give me your phone number ?! Waiiiit !!



Emys orbicularis hellenica, male



Mauremys rivulata





young





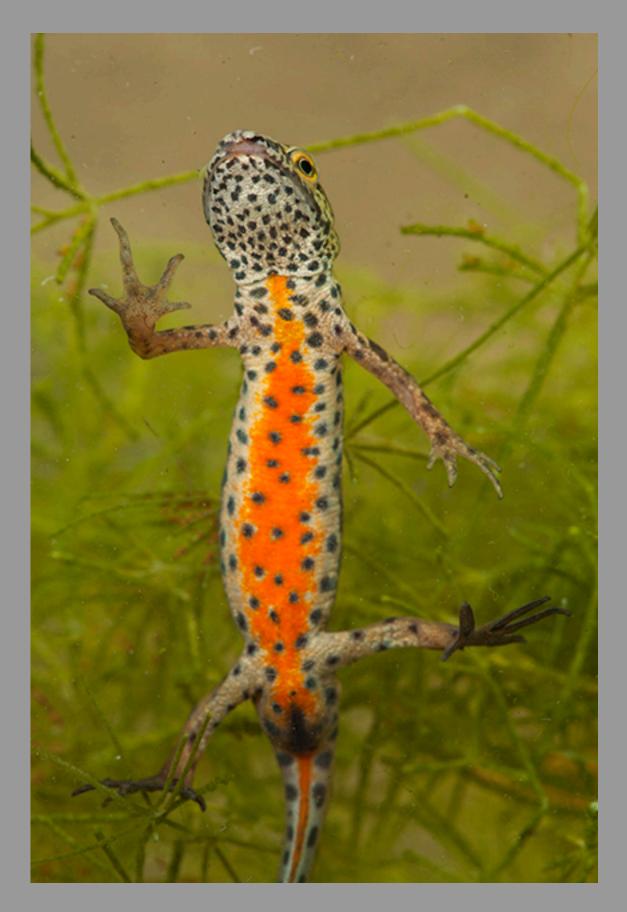
Triturus macedonicus, male



female



Lissotriton (vulgaris) graecus, male



same



female



Lissotriton vulgaris (vulgaris?)



Ichthyosaura alpestris 'carpathica', male



male and female. While touching them, those *Ichthyosaura* used to curve their head and also their body and tail, seeming dead... awesome reflex! It's the first time ever for me to see a such behavior from that species.



Ichthyosaura alpestris montenegrina, male



other



female



Bombina variegata scabra



# Other, beautiful greenish



amplexus



Bufo viridis viridis or B. (viridis) variabilis?, female



male



Bufo bufo bufo



# Pelophylax shqipericus



Pelophylax ridibundus



Hyla arborea



Parnassius apollo



Anacamptis coriophora



Serapia vomeracea

#### \*\*\* ITALY \*\*\*

Two days spending on the way back in that country, two speedy and crazy days, running everywhere in the mountains as I needed to be at home, in France, before the week-end... Later, on the way back to Slovenia, I stopped again at the same place and could find a few more specimen of *aurorae*.



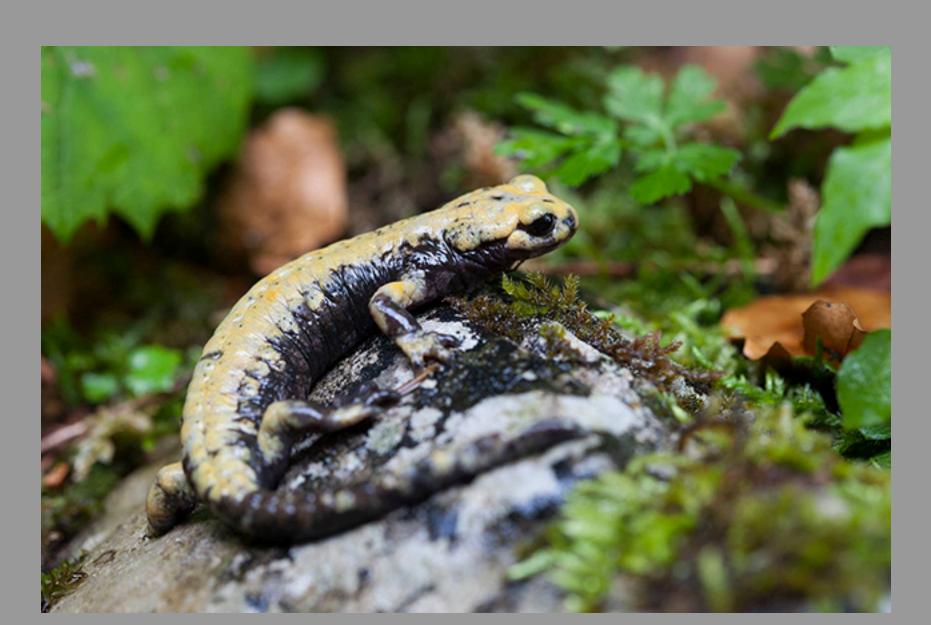
Salamandra atra aurorae, specimens found active by day, late in the afternoon, without rain.



other



other





other



same



other



other





Salamandra atra pasubiensis, Unfortunately only one young specimen could be found for a strange reason (it was rainy and not too dry on the ground). I searched during 3 hours and found that one at the very last minute. A bit frustrating when you're climbing a steep mountain for more than 2 hours to reach the spot. I also stopped there one month later, and found strictly nothing, as it was very dry up there.



Salamandra atra pasubiensis' habitat



Salamandra lanzai



Coronella austriaca austriaca, baby



Anguis veronensis, female. My main goal in Italy, having only a few crappy pictures of that newly described species



other



male



subadult



young



### Speleomantes strinatii



other



other



Rana italica

### \*\*\* FRANCE \*\*\*

In the french Alps, I managed to find 6 *Vipera aspis*, 3 were stripped, 3 were uniform. Again a strong wind made the search rather difficult... One month later, we found 15 *aspis* (x6 concolor and x9 stripped).



Vipera aspis atra

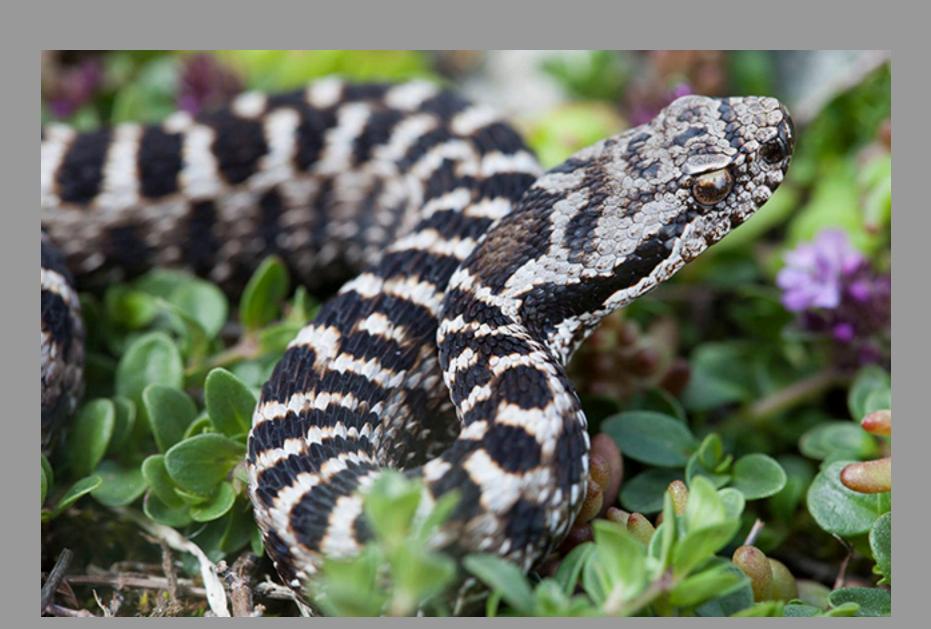


same





other





other, concolor



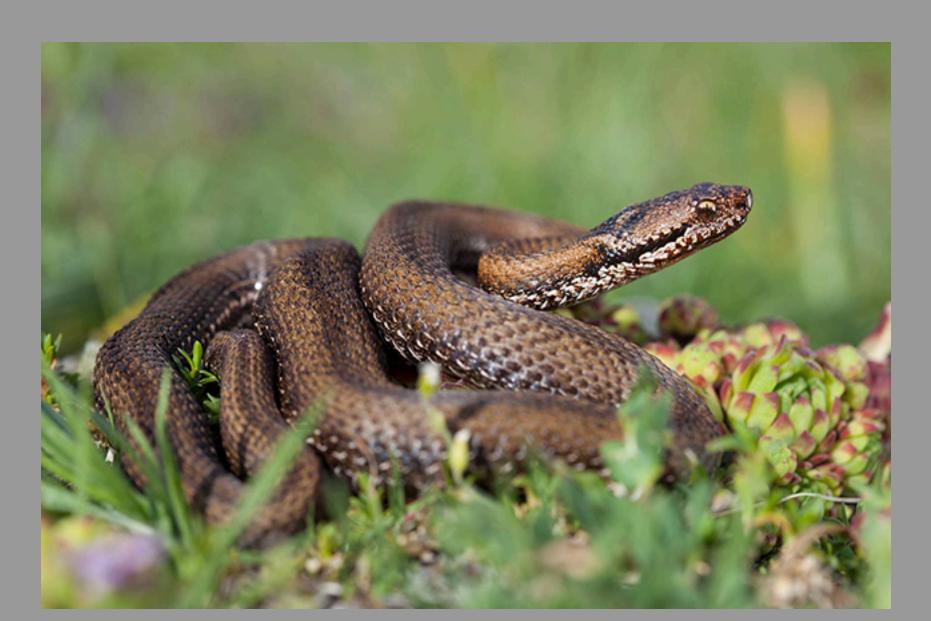
same



other



same





same



Pseudorchis alba



Dactylorhiza viridis