

Field Report, May 15th to June 01st 2012 - Spain, Portugal

by Frank Deschandol



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Once more, I made a trip to Spain and Portugal, focusing on the very last species I wanted to find (two new species and several others already known from which I wanted more pictures).

Thanks to Bobby Bok, Matthieu Berroneau, Jeroen Speybroeck, Borja De Las Heras, Jean-Marc Moingeon and Karine Deschandol.

Map of the trip :



*** SPAIN ***

-- Montseny --

From Paris, I started the trip. I met at Montseny Matthieu and Maud, Bobby, Wouter, Philip and Gerrit Jan, seeking especially the famous *Calotriton arnoldi*. It takes a short time to find several specimens in a small brook...



Calotriton arnoldi



other



Salamandra salamandra terrestris



same



young



Orchis mascula

-- Near Sant Llorenç de Morunys --

We said goodbye to Maud and Matthieu and reach the next area where occurs the famous and beautiful *Ommatotriton ophryticus*, an exogenous species found in a pond a few years ago.



Ommatotriton ophryticus, male



other



same



female and male



site



Pelodytes punctatus



Bufo spinosus



Alytes obstetricans almogavarii

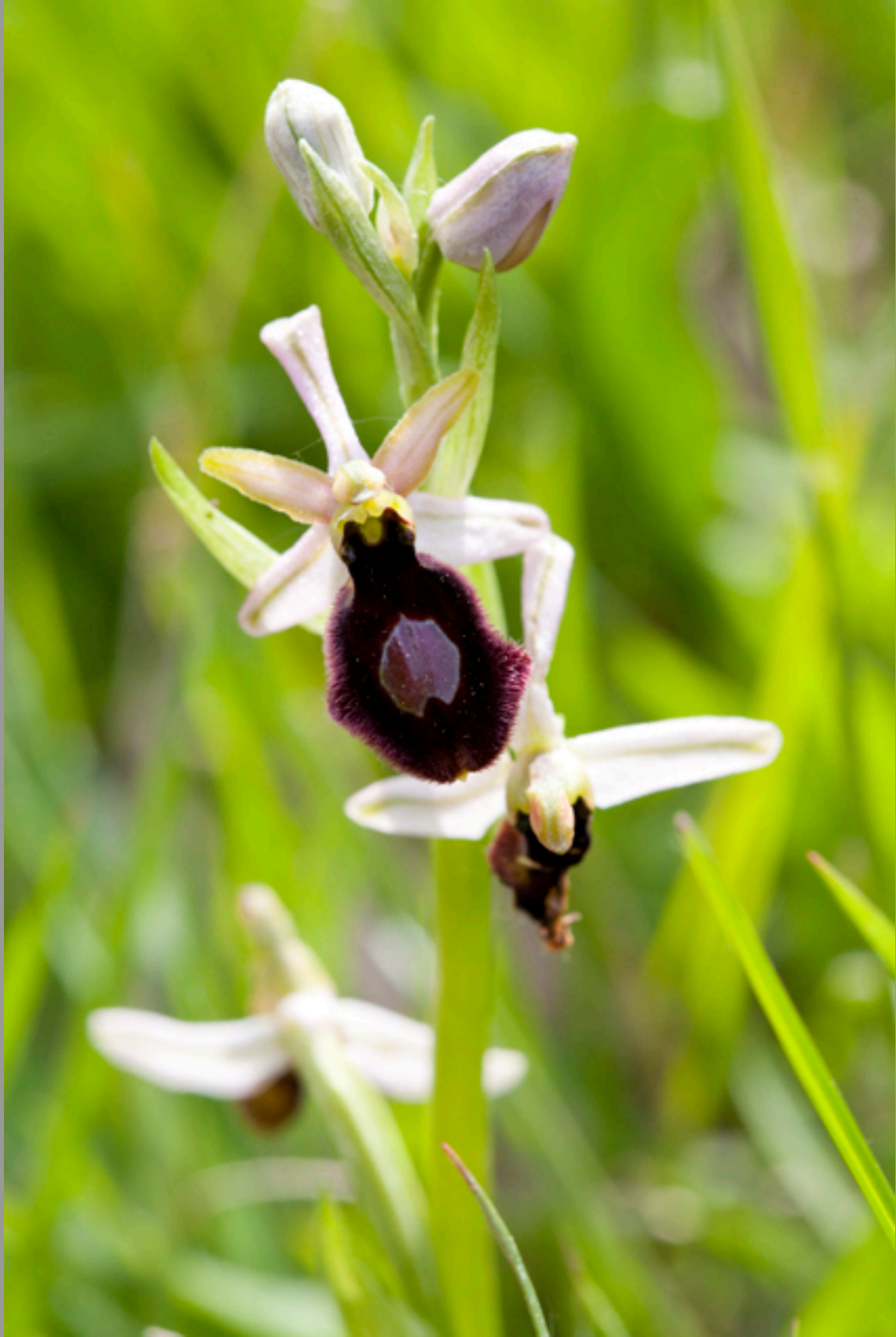




Podarcis liolepis liolepis



Ophrys castellana



Ophrys catalaunica



The team : myself, Bobby, Philip, Gerrit Jan and Wouter

-- Near Belchite --

Then, I left alone seeking for some targetted species...



hot hot hot ! *Acanthodactylus erythrurus*



other



young



a nice *Psammodromus algirus*



Psammodromus edwardsianus

-- Near Lorca --

I was heading West when the rain and storm would have made me stuck for several days in this part of Spain. Then, after some hesitations, I decided to reach Lorca, a long drive in the night, but pretty sure to find the sun there... Nevertheless, I sustained a heavy storm with rains and hail just before the town. Fortunately the sunny (and very warm) morning allowed me to see all my wishes, even more, with, I have to admit, a lot of luck !



Testudo graeca graeca



other, subadult



Acanthodactylus erythrurus



Timon nevadensis, female



same



big male



same



same



nice blue spots



Malpolon monspessulanus, in situ



same, very big male but not so large (1,50m)



same



Geomantis larvoides

-- Sierra de Gredos --

I made a stop at Sierra de Gredos to photograph the *Vipera latastei* from this region as it could be a new subspecies. After about 4 hours of research, I finally saw a single snake, always very hard to find out in a rocky habitat.



Vipera latastei



same



Lacerta schreiberi, male



other



other



pair



same



Iberolacerta cyreni castiliana



other



Blanus cinereus





Emberiza cia

-- Peña de Francia --

At last, I managed to find some adults of *Iberolacerta martinezricai*. They seem to be everywhere but always discreet and in low density. Surprisingly, I didn't see any green male, probably still too early in the season. Also some larvae of *Salamandra salamandra bejarae* there.



Iberolacerta martinezricai



other



other



other



other



other



Lacerta schreiberi



young *Capra pyrenaica*

-- Near Oviedo --

In search of *Vipera seoanei seoanei*...



Salamandra salamandra bernardezi



other



Alytes obstetricans obstetricans



Coronella austriaca acutirostris, in situ, found active in the night by 13°C !



same



Vipera seoanei seoanei, morphotype '*bilineata*'



same



Lissotriton helveticus alonsoi, male



female



Chrysocarabus lineatus avilensis



Lathraea clandestina

-- Picos de Europa and the surroundings --





habitat of *Vipera seoanei seoanei*



at this place, idem, plus...



...tons of *Hyla molleri*, an impressive and noisy place ! Unfortunately, I was unable to find any blue Hyla,

my secret wish!



other



other



other



other



other



pair



other



another pair



Pelophylax perezii is really abundant too



Bufo spinosus



Rana temporaria parvipalmata



Iberolacerta monticola cantabrica



Zootoca vivipara louislantzi



Vipera seoanei seoanei



same



other



same



Lacerta bilineata

-- Near Cistierna --

There, I was looking for *Vipera seoanei cantabrica* but I couldn't find any in spite of a whole day in that area. So I went towards Peneda Gerês at a known spot, trying to get more luck...



Zerynthia rumina rumina f. medesicaste



Ophrys sphegodes



Ophrys ficalhoana



Aceras anthropophorum, very abundant



Dactylorhiza insularis

***** PORTUGAL *****

-- Peneda Gerês --



wet... but no *Salamandra* !



habitat of *Vipera seoanei cantabrica*



Lacerta schreiberi





other



other



Chalcides striatus



Anguis fragilis with blue spots and a lot of scars probably made by a snake



young *Vipera seoanei cantabrica*



same



young black, very skinny



Natrix natrix astreptophora



other... happy flies, smelly herper...



same "alive"



very young



Podarcis guadarramae lusitanicus



other



other



other



other



Lissotriton boscai boscai, female



same



male





female



other male



other male



other male

***** SPAIN *****

-- Near Burgos --



Lacerta bilineata, gravid female



Vipera latastei latastei



other





Vipera aspis aspis



other



Chalcides striatus



Ichthyosaura alpestris cyreni, male





Lissotriton helveticus alonsoi, male



Epicallia villica, newly hatched



Ophrys scolopax



Limodorum abortivum

-- Near Andosilla --

The target was a new species for me and the last one from the peninsula ! Difficult to see or photograph these fast lizards hidden in the bushes, I could only catch a single specimen in the pain after several hours of attempts.



Psammodromus hispanicus

-- Near Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port --

Once more and because of the warmth, very difficult to see any snake there. Only two young *Vipera seoanei* could be found along with a lot of *Zootoca vivipara* and *Podarcis muralis*.



Zootoca vivipara louislantzi



Vipera seoanei seoanei, young



other young

Reptiles (32) :

Testudo graeca graeca
Mauremys leprosa
Lacerta bilineata
Lacerta schreiberi
Iberolacerta monticola cantabrica
Iberolacerta martinezricai
Iberolacerta cyreni castiliana
Timon lepidus lepidus
Timon nevadensis
Acanthodactylus erythrurus
Podarcis muralis
Podarcis liolepis liolepis
Podarcis bocagei
Podarcis hispanicus (stricto sensu)
Podarcis guadarramae lusitanicus
Psammodromus algirus
Psammodromus edwardsianus

Psammodromus hispanicus
Hemidactylus turcicus
Zootoca vivipara vivipara
Zootoca vivipara louislantzi
Anguis fragilis
Chalcides striatus
Blanus cinereus
Natrix maura
Natrix natrix astreptophora
Coronella austriaca acutirostris
Malpolon monspessulanus
Coronella girondica (dead)
Hierophis viridiflavus (dead)
Rhinechis scalaris (dead)
Vipera aspis aspis
Vipera latastei latastei
Vipera seoanei seoanei
Vipera seoanei cantabrica

Amphibians (17) :

Hyla molleri
Hyla arborea & *Hyla meridionalis* (calls only, both on the same site)
Bufo spinosus
Alytes obstetricans obstetricans
Alytes obstetricans almogavarii
Pelodytes punctatus
Triturus marmoratus
Ommatotriton ophryticus
Lissotriton helveticus alonsoi
Lissotriton helveticus helveticus
Lissotriton boscai boscai
Ichthyosaura alpestris cyreni
Calotriton arnoldi
Salamandra salamandra terrestris
Salamandra salamandra bernardezi
Salamandra salamandra bejarae (larvae)
Rana dalmatina
Rana temporaria temporaria
Rana temporaria parvipalmata
Rana iberica
Pelophylax ridibundus
Pelophylax perezi

Total = 49 spp.