

Field Photo Report, May 13th to 28th 2015 - Peloponnese & Milos (Greece)

by Frank Deschandol



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About 15 days in Peloponnese / Milos allowed me to find some new european species ; some of my main targets were Zamenis situla and Platycephalus najadum, always difficult to find in Croatia. I went there with my friend Pierre-Yves, but being a bit lazy during this trip, result could have been much better, as most of the time I searched alone :) The weather on Milos was not really good to find snakes.. Too hot into the day, rather cold by night with an incessant strong wind. Thus, we were unable to find any Zamenis situla or Natrix natrix on the island, even in spite of (my) daily hard work. As usual, I didn't spend time for the few species I've already seen elsewhere before. Amphibians living on mainland Greece will get a dedicated trip within the next spring, so I didn't bother too much about them.

Many thanks to Bobby Bok, Alexander Eppler, Matthieu Berroneau, Pedro Janssen and Pierre-Yves Vaucher.



We were mainly there....

***** PELOPONNESE *****



beautiful landscapes...





Pierre-Yves at work with *Ammodytes*...





other



other



other



female



other



other



Algyroides moreoticus



other



Lacerta trilineata trilineata





other



Podarcis muralis muralis



Hellenolacerta graeca



other



other



other



Pseudopus apodus thracius



Ophiomorus punctatissimus



other





Anguis cephallonica, the single specimen of the trip (very dry everywhere)



same



Ablepharus kitaibelii kitaibelii



Hemidactylus turcicus



Chamaeleo africanus



same



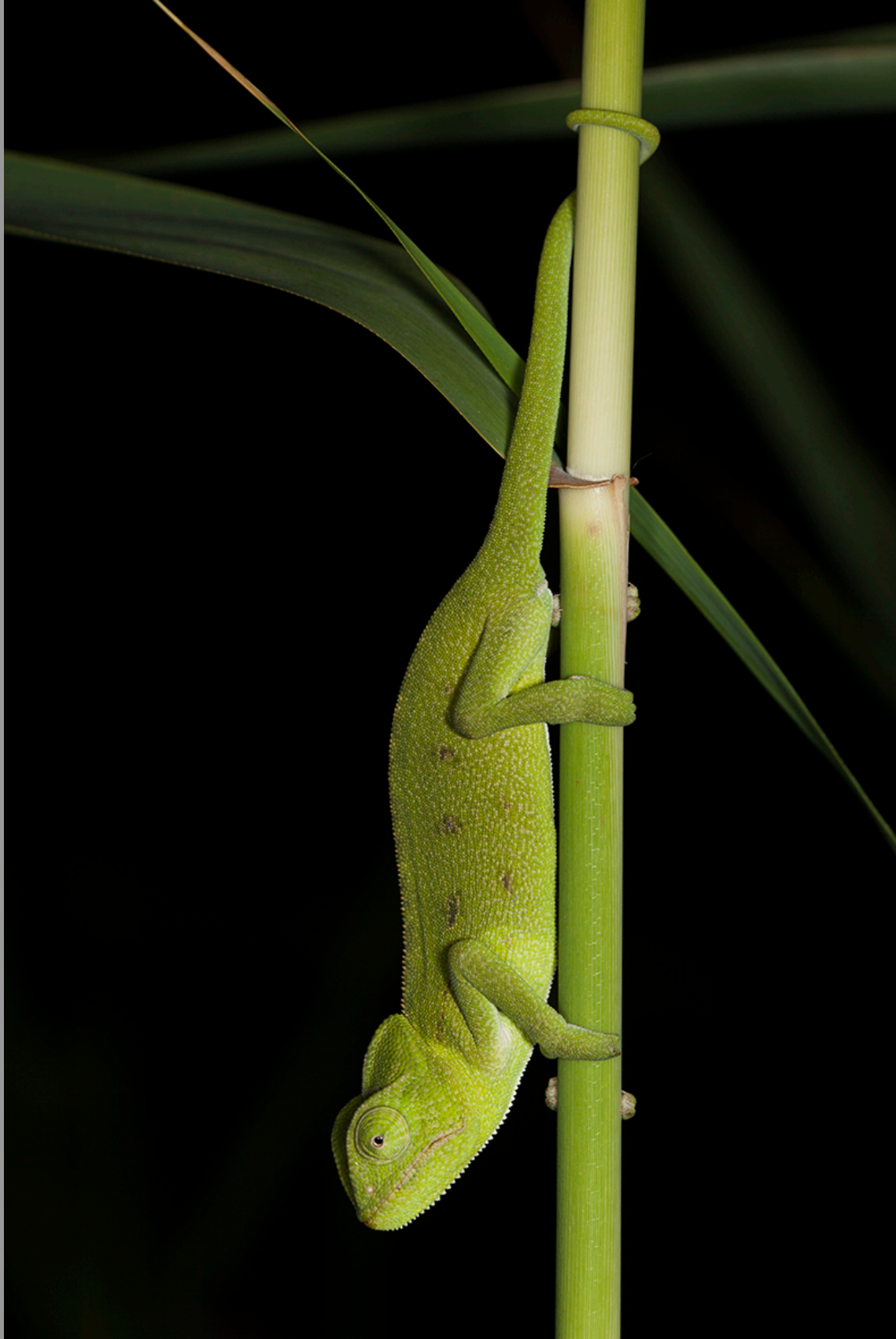
other, sleeping :)



other



other



other



Vipera ammodytes meridionalis, male



same



female



same



young



Eryx jaculus turcicus



same



Xerotyphlops vermicularis vermicularis



same



other



other





same



same



young



same



other, large one



same



other



same



Platyceps najadum dahli



same



Hierophis gemonensis



other



young



Malpolon insignitus fuscus



Natrix tessellata, young



other



Natrix natrix persa



Telescopus fallax fallax



same



Testudo hermanni boettgeri



Testudo marginata marginata



same



other



Mauremys rivulata & *Emys orbicularis hellenica*



same



Emys orbicularis



Mauremys rivulata



Bufo viridis



Bufo bufo bufo





other



Rana dalmatina



Pelophylax (ridibundus) kurtmuelleri



other



Hyla arborea



Libelloides ottomanus (lacteus)



Libelloides macaronius



Nemoptera coa



other



Eresus sp., male



Iurus dufourei



scorpions everywhere

***** MILOS *****



nice island...



...



...





Hemidactylus turcicus



Mediodactylus kotschy saronicus



Lacerta trilineata hansschweizeri



Podarcis milensis milensis, male



other



other



other



other



female



other



other



other



Telescopus fallax fallax, found under a stone, none was found outside (cold and windy every day by night)



Macrovipera lebetina schweizeri



same



other



same



other



other



huge impressive specimen of about 1 meter found half hidden into a stone wall. I made a rodeo-like to grab this anger alone, only with my gloves...



same



same



© Pierre-Yves Vaucher

While photographing this beast, an old man stopped his car and asked us if we are going to release this snake on the island... "Of course yes" I said, because I caught it here... Then, he turned very angry, saying it's not a snake from here but from Africa or Asia, and we are not allowed to do so ! He wrote the license plate of our rental car on a paper... The next day, I was at Adamas alone, coming back from the supermarket, and I noticed a police car close to mine. They wanted to check everywhere inside the car, asking about the hook and the gloves... Obviously, they thought I was smuggling snakes and they didn't believe that I was only a wildlife photographer. They wanted me to show our rooms, so I went with them in the police car to Zefiria and they checked quickly both apartments... to find nothing... Of course they said that it was just a "normal checking" and it was not because of this stupid old man, but better to be deaf than to hear such bullshit. At least they do care about snake traffic on the island but it won't avoid local people to kill vipers when they see them on their way... When we left Milos, one of those policemen was on the same boat until Athens, fortunately just as a tourist !



in between... after adrenalin...



Pelophylax sp.



other



other



sulfur mine



old one (Paliorema) with nothing much there



Amphitheatre where was found....



but no arm was found :) probably well hidden along with all *N. natrix* and *Z. situla* :)

Reptiles (30) :

Podarcis muralis muralis

Podarcis tauricus ionicus

Podarcis peloponnesiacus peloponnesiacus (maybe other sspp.?)

Podarcis milensis milensis

Lacerta trilineata trilineata (+ spp. *hansschweizeri* on Milos)

Algyroides moreoticus

Hellenolacerta graeca

Hemidactylus turcicus

Mediodactylus kotschy bibroni (+ ssp. *saronicus* on Milos)

Pseudopus apodus thracicus

Ablepharus kitaibelii kitaibelii
Anguis cephallonica
Ophiomorus punctatissimus
Chamaeleo africanus
Xerotyphlops vermicularis vermicularis
Hierophis gemonensis
Platycephalus najadum dahli
Elaphe quatuorlineata (no pic)
Telescopus fallax fallax
Zamenis situla
Eryx jaculus turcicus
Malpolon insignitus fuscus
Natrix natrix persa
Natrix tessellata
Vipera ammodytes meridionalis
Macrovipera lebetina schweizeri
Emys orbicularis hellenica
Mauremys rivulata
Testudo hermanni boettgeri
Testudo marginata marginata

Amphibians (8) :

Rana dalmatina
Rana graeca
Pelophylax sp.
Pelophylax (ridibundus) kurtmuelleri
Hyla arborea
Bufo viridis
Bufo bufo bufo
Salamandra salamandra wernerii (larvae only)

Total = 38 spp.