

Field Report, March 28th 2007 - The Netherlands

by Frank Deschandol



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Here is a short resume of my day trip to the Netherlands (the 28th March 2007), I was invited by Bert Blok to observe black Adders (*Vipera berus*) in the Balloërveld (near Groningen). Interesting to take note of the presence of the Common Spadefoot toad (*Pelobates fuscus*) but it was too early in the season to see any...

The weather was very nice, yet night temperatures were still quite cool (2-3°C); the sun was out all day with a wind of 3 to 4. We caught a dozen snakes whilst they were heating out in the sun, we found many females which according to Bert is very early in the season for them; he has never seen this in March. I must say that even 3 of us searching, we needed 4 hours before finding a famous black specimen, I had the joy of seeing and catching a black specimen, a small male, but a real beauty...

Some specimens are said to be even darker, but generally the actual colour is more dark brown if seen under great light.

We then went to see some Sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis agilis*) sites, our short search gave us a few females...



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habitat



Adder (*Vipera berus*)



Adder (*Vipera berus*)



Adder (*Vipera berus*)



Adder (*Vipera berus*)



Sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis agilis*)