

First record of the *erythronotus* mutation in *Lacerta agilis* cf. *bosnica* SCHREIBER, 1912

During a field trip to Montenegro (Crne Gore) the author visited the Durmitor mountains in the north of the country from June 9 to 13, 2007.

In the environs of the small town of Žabljak (1.456 m a.s.l., most elevated town in the Balkan Peninsula) *Lacerta agilis* cf. *bosnica* SCHREIBER, 1912 was very common (for some uncertainty in subspecific assignment compare trees in KALYABINA-HAUF & ANANJEVA 2004 and KALYABINA-HAUF et al. 2004).

The surroundings of Žabljak consist of mixed forests (beech, fir, pine, larch) and subalpine meadows. The Sand Lizard was only found in open habitats, like on rocks beside roads and inside of meadows, on wooden fences or on basements of old farm houses. All observations were made between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. during sunny but cloudy weather conditions with moderate wind blowing. The highest abundance was found from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at temperatures of about 22 °C.

About 25 individuals were observed within half an hour at different places; some were caught for being photographed and released immediately thereafter.

All showed one postnasal and one loreal scale as it typical for the subspecies *bosnica* (BISCHOFF 1984, 1988). The presence of a continuous white median plus two parietal lines could not be confirmed as a constant character of subspecific significance. Only about 30% of the individuals photographed (4 out of 13) showed this feature.

One specimen each of the *erythronotus* mutation was found near the villages Meždo (about 1.5 km east of Žabljak) and Novacovići (about 8 km southeast of Žabljak).

*Erythronotus* mutations have been known only in the *Lacerta agilis* subspecies *argus* LAURENTI, 1768, *chersonensis* ANDRZEJOWSKI, 1832 and *tauridica* SUCHOV, 1926 till now. However, VEITH (1991: 144) reported on the comparatively rare occurrence of 'var. *erythronota*' in the territories of 'Bosnia and Hercegovina' and made reference to a near-*erythronotus* male from Dobropolje (between Trnovo and Kalinovik).



Abb 1: *Lacerta agilis* cf. *bosnica* SCHREIBER, 1912, *erythronotus* mutation, subadult, from Meždo, Montenegro (Crne Gore).

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