

First record of *Platyceps najadum dahlia* (SCHINZ, 1833) from the Croatian Island of Pag and confirmation for the Island of Krk

As indicated by a continuous line in the map by DAREWSKIJ & ŠČERBAK (1993), the vicinity of the town of Zadar on the Dalmatian coast (Croatia) has been the northernmost substantiated record locality of *Platyceps najadum dahlia* (SCHINZ, 1833). An even more northern site on the Island of Krk (BRUNO 1980) is linked to the continuously encircled distribution area by a dashed line which might suggest some doubts on its credibility. The snake's mention from Istria (Rovinj, Pula - MÜLLER 1934-35) was largely ignored by subsequent authors.

During an excursion on the Croatian Island of Pag, on June, 11, 2004, a specimen of *P. najadum dahlia* was found dead on the road about two kilometers south of the village of Vrčići in the central south of the island (fig. 1). The snake was detected at about 9:00 a.m. and appeared almost freshly killed. On both sides of the road, there



Fig. 1: *Platyceps najadum dahlia* (SCHINZ, 1833) found dead on a road on the Croatian Island of Pag.

were meadows with bushes, east of the road, the nearby hillside was very rocky with xerophytic plants. This is the first record of *P. najadum dahlia* from the Island of Pag. As is typical in central Dalmatian *P. najadum*, the markings at the sides of the neck were small and low in number. The Pag specimen had five on each side, the posterior two were only small dots.

In the Island of Krk, the author observed an individual of *P. najadum* on May, 22, 2004. The site was at the edge of a pine-forest in the Zubovo area, near the bend of the road from Punat to Baška. The snake was basking on top of a stone-wall and disappeared in the dense vegetation when he tried to catch it.

Another specimen was seen by a friend at Prmba Peninsula, south-east of the town of Krk in summer 2004.

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SUBMITTED: October 29, 2004

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