

**First record of the *erythronotus* colouration in a female individual *Lacerta agilis*
(Laurenti, 1768) in Croatia**

**Prvi nalaz *erythronotus* mutacije kod ženske jedinke *Lacerta agilis* (Laurenti, 1768) u
Hrvatskoj**

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The Sand Lizard (*Lacerta agilis* Laurenti, 1768) is a small to medium sized lizard, reaching about 18 cm total length (Edgar & Bird 2005). Two subspecies of the Sand Lizard occur in Croatia. *Lacerta agilis argus* Laurenti, 1768, is distributed in the Pannonian lowland and *Lacerta agilis bosnica* Scheriber, 1912 is in southern Croatia (except the Mediterranean coast and all Adriatic islands) (Bischoff 1988; Karaman 1921; Kalayabina et al. 2001; Edgar & Bird 2005; Jelić, 2010).

There are many variations in colour and pattern across the range of this species (Edgar & Bird, 2005). The *erythronotus* form (Figure 1.) is manifested by a specific dorsal colouration consisting of a reddish stripe as opposed to the typical green or brown colouration with a dark brown stripe (Bischoff 1988) (Fig. 2). It is not unusual, and occurs in many Sand Lizard populations across many countries (Bischoff 1988; Karaman 1921, Vogrin 1999, Borczyk, 2001, Edgar & Bird 2005, Strugariu et al. 2006, Schweiger 2008, Jelić 2010, Burić & Jelić 2011) and it is the most common colour anomaly in some countries (Borczyk 2001).

A female *L. a. argus erythronotus* colouration morph (with one postnasal and two

loreal scales as it typical for the *argus* subspecies as in Bischoff 1988) was found during a herpetological fieldtrip on 30 March, 2014 in a small village called Petrijanec in Varaždin County, Croatia (X:5592051, Y: 5133845). It was found on the forest edge surrounded by *Rubus sp.* and *Quercus robur*, at 190 m above sea level. This is the first record of *erythronotus* coloration morph in a female Sand Lizard in Croatia and the second record for the morph in the country. Jelić (2010) found a male of the *erythronotus* colouration morph in the vicinity of Donji Miholjac.

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Figure 1. Female Sand Lizard with *erythronotus* coloration from Petrijanec, Croatia.

Slika 1. Ženka livadne gušerice s *erythronotus* tipom obojenja iz Petrijanca, Hrvatska.



Figure 2. The typical female colouration morph from Petrijanec, Croatia.

Slika 2. Normalno obojena ženka iz Petrijanca, Hrvatska.