

Further data on the herpetofauna of Lošinj Island, Croatia

In a recently published paper about the herpetofauna of the Island of Cres, Croatia (TÓTH et al. 2006), the authors made reference to the reptiles living on neighboring Lošinj Island, which is located southwest of Cres in the Kvarner Bay. According to the available literature there are no amphibian records from Lošinj Island, whereas 11 reptile species are known – *Hemidactylus turcicus* (LINNAEUS, 1758), *Algyroides nigropunctatus* (DUMÉRIL & BIRON, 1839), *Lacerta trilineata* BEDRIAGA, 1886, *Lacerta bilineata* DAUDIN, 1802, *Podarcis melisellenis* (BRAUN, 1877), *Podarcis siculus* (RAFINESQUE-SCHMALTZ, 1810), *Hierophis gemonensis* (LAURENTI, 1768), *Elaphe quatuorlineata* (LACEPÈDE, 1789), *Zamenis situla* (LINNAEUS, 1758), *Malpolon monspessulanus* (HERMANN, 1804), and *Telescopus fallax* (FLEISCHMANN, 1831). An excursion of the authors to Lošinj from 5th to 15th of May 2007, revealed two more herpetological species, and the authors obtained reliable information about a third one.

The first observation refers to the European Glass Lizard *Pseudopus apodus* (PALLAS, 1775). One specimen was found dead on the road south of Mali Lošinj, on a walkway heading to the bay. At the same place, the authors observed an adult and a juvenile during the following days. One side of the walkway was lined by houses and gardens, along with steep grassland ranging down to the sea. The other side was a several meters long, bushy grassland, bordered by a high stonewall supporting the road.

Lack of amphibian observations from Lošinj seemed sufficiently explained by the absence of constantly available open water on this island, whereas it is available on the neighboring Island of Cres. A local, young amateur herpetologist, Jakov MATUNCI (Ma-



Fig. 1: *Pseudopus apodus* (PALLAS, 1775). 'Dead on road' specimen from Lošinj Island, Croatia.

li Lošinj) supported this opinion from his personal view. Bearing this in mind, the first author was surprised when he found a slain European Green Toad, *Bufo viridis* (LAURENTI, 1768) on a newly built, rarely used road, southwest of the village of Veli Lošinj, in the almost uninhabited southern part of the island. The road ran along a ridge, near by a telecommunication tower. The surrounding habitat was made up by small bushes on dry, rocky ground without any sign of surface water.

The third observation is owed to the aforementioned young herpetologist. He had observed several Hermann's Tortoises *Testudo hermanni* GMELIN, 1789, near the urban gardens of Mali Lošinj. The tortoises probably were brought to Lošinj from the mainland or nearby islands (Cres, Krk) to serve as pets for the residents there.

The above records raise the number of herpetological taxa known to occur on Lošinj Island from 11 to 14.

REFERENCES: TÓTH, T. & GRILLITSCH, H. & FARKAS, B. & GAL, J. & SUŠIĆ, G. (2006): Herpetofaunal data from Cres Island, Croatia. – *Herpetozoa*, Wien; 19 (1/2): 27-58.

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