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Herpetofaunal locality records on the Greek Island of Corfu
(Amphibia, Reptilia)

Herpetofaunistische Fundortangaben zur griechischen Insel Korfu
(Amphibia, Reptilia)

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ABSTRACT

Since MERTENS' (1961a) comprehensive study on the herpetofauna of the Island of Corfu, no other publications have appeared that fully cover this subject. The present study compiles the herpetological record localities on Corfu Island mentioned by name in the literature as well as unpublished observations of the authors. The record localities of 8 amphibian and 26 reptile species occurring on the island are presented on separate maps each.

KURZFASSUNG

MERTENS (1961a) Beitrag 'Die Amphibien und Reptilien der Insel Korfu' war die letzte zusammenfassende Darstellung über die Herpetofauna der Insel, die nach gegenwärtigem Wissen 8 Lurch- und 26 Kriechtierarten beherbergt. Die Autoren der vorliegenden Veröffentlichung haben exakte Ortsangaben von Lurch- und Kriechtierfunden von der Insel Korfu aus der Literatur und nach eigenen Beobachtungen zusammengetragen und in Form von Verbreitungskarten dargestellt.

KEY WORDS

Amphibia, Reptilia, herpetofauna of Corfu Island, Greece, record localities, distribution maps

INTRODUCTION

Even before the First World War, many animal dealers were well aware of the abundance and species diversity of reptiles and amphibians found on the Greek Island of Corfu. This knowledge unfortunately resulted in thousands of reptiles captured and exported to Germany. Populations of *Algyroides nigropunctatus* (DUMÉRIL & BIBRON, 1839), *Podarcis taurica ionica* (LEHRS, 1902), *Lacerta trilineata trilineata* BEDRIAGA, 1886 and *Mauremys rivulata* (VALENCIENNES, 1833) were certainly decimated by the collectors. Albeit the huge numbers collected, at present the Island of Corfu still harbours an extremely diverse herpetofauna, consisting of 8 amphibian and 26 reptile species.

Corfu (Kerkyra, in Greek) is situated in the northern part of the Ionian Sea about 2.5 km from the Albanian coast and is renowned for being the greenest of the approximately 3000 Greek islands. In table 1 we present the main climatic features of the island. The high humidity, caused by the high precipitation is contrasted by large numbers of sunny days. These climatic features favour lush vegetation exhibiting very high species diversity. Corfu exhibits wet winter months but dry and sunny summers with moderate temperatures. The annual rainfall is 1250 mm, twice that of a well known wet place in the world, London. At present, Corfu is a very popular tourist destination.

In the introduction of his paper "Die Amphibien und Reptilien der Insel Korfu" ROBERT MERTENS (1961a) states: "Schliesslich wollte man etwas über die Verbreitung gewisser Arten innerhalb der immerhin 585 qkm umfassenden Insel in Erfahrung bringen, da ja für viele nich mehr bekannt war, als dass sie auf "Korfu" erbeutet worden sind" ["In the end, we should gather information about the distribution of certain species on this island of 585 square kilometres, because for many of these species the

Table 1 Main climate characteristics of Corfu Island indicated for each month (from PÉCZELY 1986).
Tab. 1: Wichtige Klimadaten der Insel Korfu für die Monate Jänner bis Dezember (nach PÉCZELY 1986).

Month Monat	Rainfall (mm) Niederschlag	Relative Humidity (%) Rel. Luftfeuchte	Relative cloud cover (%) Rel. Wolkenbedeckung	Number of sunny hours Anzahl der Sonnenscheinstunden	Mean temperature (°C) Temperaturmittel
Jan.	158	74	59	138	9.9
Feb.	144	73	54	138	10.2
Mar.	98	72	52	192	11.7
Apr.	85	73	49	213	14.6
May	46	70	48	284	20
Jun.	25	64	30	330	22.4
Jul.	6	60	13	412	25.1
Aug.	21	61	16	376	25.4
Sep.	70	70	28	276	22.4
Oct.	183	74	47	197	18.7
Nov.	168	76	57	132	14.9
Dec.	218	76	63	122	11.7
* - $\bar{x}$; ** - Σ	1222**	70*	43*	2810**	17.3*

only knowledge we have is that they were collected on Corfu."]. We agree with the author, because in the majority of the works (e. g., CYRÉN 1909; WERNER 1912, 1929, 1938; ONDRIAS 1968; PETZOLD 1971; MAHNERT 1973; ARNOLD & BURTON 1983; ENGELMANN et al. 1985; CHONDROPOULOS 1986, 1989) the authors are satisfied by just stating "Corfu" as a locality. We wanted to fill this lack of knowledge, by collecting all available data on the exact distribution of the amphibians and reptiles on the island.

The present work summaries the results of our own herpetological surveys and those made by other herpetologists on the island: Robert WÜTSCHERT - "Neues über die Reptilienfauna des Insel Korfu" (1984) and several publications by Robert MERTENS "Zoologische Wandertage auf Korfu, der Insel der Phäaken" (1960), "Die Amphibien und Reptilien der Insel Korfu" (1961a), "Nachträge zur Reptilienfauna der Insel Korfu" (1968). The publications by MERTENS were based on the collections made by Dr. J. NIETHAMMER and M. SCHETTY, and from numerous surveys conducted by the author himself. Furthermore we have also got access to the results of herpetological surveys conducted by György SZABÓ (1991), András TARTALLY (1990, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996), Gergely SZÖVÉNYI (1994), Oszkár OROSZ (1995), László ZÁBRÁCKI (1999), László NÉMETH (1995), Balázs FARKAS (1997). Our own surveys were conducted in 1995 (T. T.) and 2001 (B. Ú. and T. M.). These surveys covered most parts of the island (fig. 1). The aim of the present work is thus, to present an update of our knowledge on the distribution of the amphibian and reptile fauna occurring on Corfu.

There are only a few publications concerning the amphibians of Corfu. We used the species list of the amphibian fauna of Corfu published by BUTTLE in 1995. Unfortunately, neither BUTTLE (l. c.) nor LANZA & VANNI (1987) published the exact distribution of the species, but simply listed them.

SPECIES ACCOUNT

Triturus carnifex macedonicus (KARAMAN, 1922) (fig. 2)

The Crested Newts from Corfu were assigned to *T. c. macedonicus* by ARNTZEN & WALLIS (1999). According to BUTTLE (1995) it is sympatric with *Triturus vulgaris graecus* (WOLTERSTORFF, 1905). The first specimens were collected in 1983 by KEYMAR (1984), at Gavrolimni and Gazatika. This was the first record of this species on a Mediterranean island (KEYMAR 1986a). One specimen was found in a pond south of Benitses in 1995 (NÉMETH pers. comm.).

Fig. 1: Localities surveyed in the Greek Island of Corfu.
Abb. 1: Untersuchungsorte auf der griechischen Insel Korfu.

Triturus vulgaris graecus
(WOLTERSTORFF, 1905) (fig. 3)

The description of "graeca", the smallest among the *T. vulgaris* subspecies, was based on 50 specimens collected on Corfu (WOLTERSTORFF 1905). *Triturus v. graecus* was recoded between Gastouri and Benitses (BEDRIAGA 1897), Agios Kiriaki (BOETTGER 1889; WERNER 1894; BEDRIAGA 1897), between Gastouri and Korfu (BOETTGER 1889; BEDRIAGA 1897), Kanoni (BOETTGER 1889; WERNER 1894, 1902, 1929), from the surroundings of the city of Korfu (BOETTGER 1889; BEDRIAGA 1897; WERNER 1902, 1929), Val de Ropa (KOCH 1932), Paleokastritsa (BOETTGER 1889; WERNER 1894; MERTENS 1960, 1961a) and Lake Counoupena (MERTENS 1960, 1961a). Maximum altitude (300 m a.s.l.) is reached at Agios Kiriaki. WERNER (1929, 1930, 1933) did not publish the name of the location where he captured his specimens. We recorded the species in the surroundings of Mesongi (TT) and at Tembloni (TM, BÚ).

Rana ridibunda PALLAS, 1771 and
Rana epeirotica SCHNEIDER, SOFIANIDOU & KYRIAKOPOULOU-SKLAVOUNOU, 1984 (fig. 4)

We present the collective distribution of these two species as from earlier papers (BOETTGER 1889; WERNER 1894, 1927; KOCH 1932; MERTENS 1960, 1961a) we cannot deduce which species the author is referring to. The two species are known as the *Rana* "Corfu taxon" (TUNNER & HEPPICH 1982; MELLADO et al. 1999). These species hybridise and are hard to identify (BUTTLE 1995). This author considers *R. epeirotica* being the rarer of the two. MERTENS (1961a) states that *R. ridibunda* is very common on the island, and can be found in brackish and saline waters, for example in the Lagoon of Kalikiopoulou. It was found in Linia (KEYMAR 1986b), Korission (GRUNDKE 1988), the area between Korfu and Gastouri (BOETTGER 1889), the Kalikiopoulou Lagoon (MERTENS 1960, 1961a), the surrounding of the city of Korfu (WERNER 1927), Val de Ropa (WERNER 1927; KOCH 1932), Lake Counoupena and Pheleka bridge (MERTENS 1961a), in the Fonissa river in the region of Sidari (MERTENS 1960, 1961a; KEYMAR, 1986b). WERNER (1894, 1930, 1933) captured the species but does not mention the place. We observed numerous individuals at Lake Korission (SZÖVÉNYI pers. comm.), at Tembloni (TT, TM, BÚ) and between Zigos and Klimatia (FARKAS pers. comm.).

Rana dalmatina
BONAPARTE, 1840 (fig. 5)

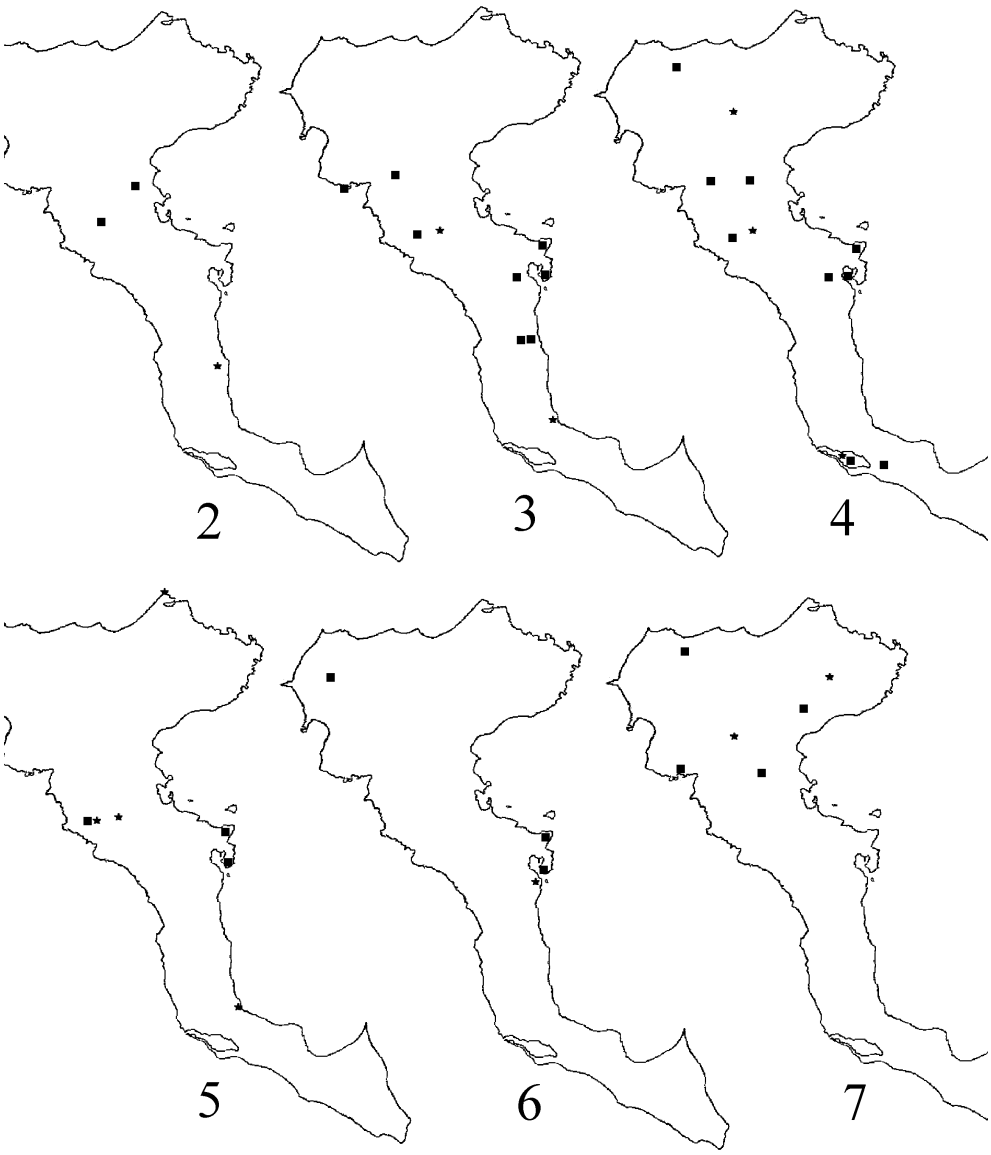
WERNER (1902) thought that he was the first who observed this species on Corfu, however, BOETTGER (1889) recorded it nine years earlier, in 1883. WERNER (1929, 1930) again reports on the occurrence of the species. KOCH (1932) mentioned this species erroneously under *Rana graeca*. *Rana dalmatina* occurs in the surroundings of Kanoni (WERNER 1912; KÜCHLER 1979), between the city of Korfu and the suburbs of Kastrades (WERNER 1902; KEYMAR 1986b) and at Val de Ropa (KOCH 1932; KEYMAR 1986a). Our Hungarian colleagues found the frog close to Mesongi (SZÖVÉNYI and TARTALLY pers. comm.) and we observed it at a swampy lake near Tembloni (TT), Val de Ropa and Cape Agios Ekaterini (TM, BÚ).

Bufo viridis viridis
LAURENTI, 1768 (fig. 6)

As in numerous other localities in the Mediterranean region, the Green Toad is abundant in urban areas on Corfu (BUTTLE 1995). BUTTLE's (1995) observation is supported by all the other researchers, recording the Green Toad in the Lagoon of Kalikiopoulou at Kanoni (WERNER 1912, 1927), in the city of Korfu, including Esplenada (BOETTGER 1889; KOCH 1932; MERTENS 1961a) and at Magoulades (MERTENS 1961a). BOETTGER (1888) and WERNER (1930, 1933) also listed the toad, but without locality details. In 1994 a specimen was observed in Perema (SZÖVÉNYI pers. comm.).

Bufo bufo spinosus
DAUDIN, 1803 (fig. 7)

MERTENS (1960, 1961a) observed the toad at the Pheleka bridge, 5 km east of Paleokastritsa and south of Sidar. GRUNDKE (1988) captured specimens on the road from



Figs. 2-7: Records of *Triturus carnifex macedonicus* (2), *Triturus vulgaris graecus* (3), *Rana ridibunda* and *Rana epeirotica* (4), *Rana dalmatina* (5), *Bufo viridis viridis* (6), and *Bufo bufo spinosus* (7) in Corfu Island (Greece). ■ - Data from the literature; ★ - Record of the authors.

Abb. 2-7: Nachweise von *Triturus carnifex macedonicus* (2), *Triturus vulgaris graecus* (3), *Rana ridibunda* und *Rana epeirotica* (4), *Rana dalmatina* (5), *Bufo viridis viridis* (6) und *Bufo bufo spinosus* (7) auf Korfu (Griechenland). ■ - Literaturangabe; ★ - Nachweis der Autoren.

Ipsos to the Pantokrator. DURELL (1956) observed a half-melanistic specimen on Corfu. We found an adult female on a road close to Skripero (TT) and another on the mountain of Pantokrator (TM, BÚ).

Hyla arborea arborea
(LINNAEUS, 1758) (fig. 8)

Specimens from Corfu are significantly smaller than those from central Europe (MERTENS 1961a). Populations are known from the Lagoon of Kalikiopoulou (WERNER 1929), the city areas of Korfu and Kanoni (WERNER 1894; MERTENS 1961a), Mon Repo (KOCH 1932), Potamos and Sidari (MERTENS 1960, 1961a), the Giatri region (GRUNDKE 1988), the Pantokrator mountain up to 950 m a.s.l. (KEYMAR 1986b). BOETTGER (1888) and WERNER (1930, 1933) also report the species, but without locality details. It also inhabits the surroundings of the city Korfu (SZÖVÉNYI pers. comm.), Tembloni (TM, BÚ), Val de Ropa (TM, BÚ) and Gouvia (TM, BÚ).

Testudo hermanni hermanni
GMELIN, 1789 (fig. 9)

This is a common species, found all over the island, from bushy and rocky mountainsides to meadows and olive tree grooves. WERNER (1894) recorded a specimen, collected near the road to Kanoni. In 1960 MERTENS (1960) found it in the area of Chlomos and Argirades, respectively, in 1961 at Sidari, between Sidari and Magoulades and at the Lagoon of Kalikiopoulou (MERTENS 1961a). WÜTSCHERT (1984) found the species at Agios Georgios, Skripero, Ermones, Gastouri and the surroundings of Tembloni. Locals collected several specimens for MERTENS from the areas of Sidari and Magoulades (MERTENS 1961a). GRUNDKE (1988) collected *T. h. hermanni* in several locations but he mentions only Gastouri. KÜCHLER (1979) found the species on the Kanoni Peninsula and between Perema and Korfu and KATTINGER (1972) noted its occurrence in the eastern part of Lake Korission. HANGER (1984) found two specimens in the surroundings of the city of Korfu. BOETTGER (1888), WERNER (1912, 1929), CYRÉN (1941), BURESH & ZONKOV (1942), MERTENS (1968), ONDRIAS (1968), KÜCHLER (1979), HANGER (1984), KEYMAR (1986a), GRUNDKE (1988), BUTTLE (1995) and CHEYLAN (2001) also report the species occurring on Corfu without further locality details. WERNER (1929, 1930, 1933) considered the species to be *Testudo graeca* LINNAEUS, 1758. In his opinion *T. graeca* is the only tortoise, which occurs on the Ionian Islands. However, there is no doubt that WERNER did not correctly identify the specimens he examined.

We and our colleagues also found this taxon at the following locations: Mesongi (TARTALLY and SZÖVÉNYI pers. comm.), Benitses (OROSZ and NÉMETH pers. comm.), the Kalikiopoulou Lagoon (NÉMETH pers. comm.), Tembloni (TM, BÚ), between Doukades and Skripero (FARKAS pers. comm.), Ipsos (ZÁBRÁCKI pers. comm.), Agios Markos (FARKAS pers. comm.), on the Pantokrator (TM, BÚ) and at Cape Agios Ekaterini (TM, BÚ).

Testudo marginata
SCHOEPFF, 1782 (fig. 10)

Testudo marginata is distributed along the Albanian coastline in the Ionian See (BRINGSØE et al. 2001), LORTET (1887) also recorded it from this area and the specimen can be found in the collection of the Museo Zoologico "La Specola" in Firenze (BRINGSØE et al. 2001). A carapax was found by HOFER (1967) in the northern part of Corfu. However, this specimen could have been carried to the island by sea or could have been a pet (KEYMAR 1986a, KEYMAR & WEISSINGER 1987). BRINGSØE et al. (2001) refer to a personal communication with R. BOUR (Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris), who informed them that D. BALLASINA captured a specimen at Vranganiotika in 1978.

Although the species has been recorded on the Albanian mainland we doubt its occurrence on Corfu and we consider that the specimens found on Corfu have been brought to this island by man.

Mauremys rivulata
(VALENCIENNES, 1833) (fig. 11)

The first record from Corfu was mentioned by DE BETTA (1868). This species has

been recorded from Gastouri (BOETTGER 1889), the city of Korfu, Paleokastritsa (WERNER 1894) and from a secondary branch of the Fonissa River near Sidari (MERTENS 1960, 1961a). According to WÜTSCHERT (1984) *M. rivulata* can be found in every gully and lake. FRITZ & WISCHUF (1997) who raised the former subspecies *M. caspica rivulata* to species level mention the species to occur 3 km north of Tembloni. Here it lives in sympatry with *Emys orbicularis* (LINNAEUS, 1758), but being less abundant than the latter. GRUNDKE (1988) found sympatric populations at Sidari. Probably the same population was recorded previously by KÜCHLER (1979). A specimen was also captured in this area by FRITZ & WISCHUF (1997). BEDRIAGA (1881), BOETTGER (1888), WERNER (1930, 1933), and WISCHUF & BUSACK (2001) also report *Mauremys* from the island. The authors (TM, BÚ) observed *M. rivulata* at Tembloni and at Zigos, and our colleagues at Lake Korission (FARKAS pers. comm.).

Emys orbicularis (LINNAEUS, 1758)
(fig. 12)

WÜTSCHERT (1984) considered that its density on Corfu is nine to ten times higher than that of *Mauremys*. MERTENS (1960), however, was of the opposite opinion and considered it much less abundant than *Mauremys*. *Emys* has been reported to occur at Linia (GRUNDKE 1988), Korission (KATTINGER 1972; GRUNDKE 1988), Tembloni (WÜTSCHERT 1984), Paleokastritsa (WERNER 1894) and in the Sidari region (MERTENS 1960, 1961a; GRUNDKE 1988; FRITZ 2001). WERNER (1930, 1933) reports on the species without locality details. Based on observations by MERTENS (1960) and WÜTSCHERT (1984) the carapax of this species is always covered with algae and/or its surface becomes very rough, features never observed in *Mauremys*. In 1995 one of us (TT) visited the habitats close to Tembloni but was not able to observe any *Emys* specimens.

Caretta caretta caretta (LINNAEUS, 1758)
(fig. 13)

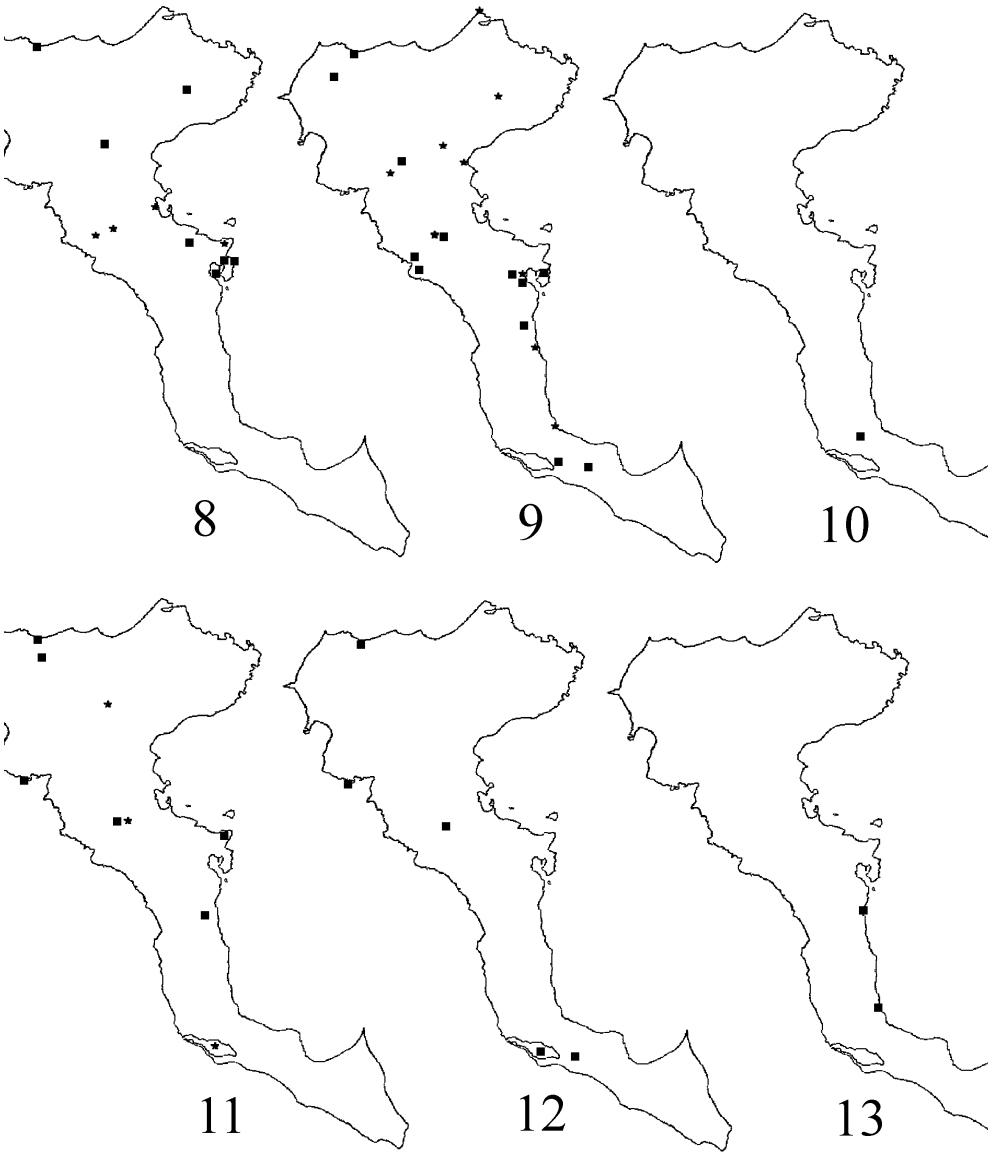
The first mention of this species was in 1894 by WERNER, who reported that many specimens can be observed in August when they come to the island to oviposit. KOCH (1932) found a specimen close to Achilleion, turned on its back, probably by fishermen. The researcher and his colleagues turned the turtle over again and it returned into the sea. In 1962, employees of the Miramare Hotels beach at Moraitika captured a specimen. Fishermen have reported that they often captured sea turtle specimens off the coast of Corfu (WÜTSCHERT 1984).

Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus
(LINNAEUS, 1758) (fig. 14)

SALVADOR (1981) referred to the 1961a work by MERTENS in which the latter stated that this species occurred at Agios Kiriaki and at Gastouri. However, these locations have to be ascribed to BOETTGER (1889). WERNER (1929) reports on two juvenile specimens from Gastouri. In 1930, the author listed the species again, without exact locality. KOCH (1932) found this species on the Islands of Vido and Lazaret, WERNER (1929) at Gastouri, KABISCH (2001) at Glifada. This lizard was also observed at Perivoli (NÉMETH pers. comm.), Mesongi (TARTALLY and SZÖVÉNYI pers. comm.), in the Benitses region (OROSZ and NÉMETH pers. comm.), Perema (TARTALLY pers. comm.) Paleokastritsa (FARKAS pers. comm.) and Ipsos (ZÁBRÁCKI pers. comm.). From these observations the species seems to occur only in the southern part of Corfu.

Laudakia stellio stellio
(LINNAEUS, 1758) (fig. 15)

In Europe *Laudakia stellio* is exclusively found in Greece where it occurs in four different areas separated by 300-500 km from one another: the Peninsula of Chalhidiki, some islands of the central part of the Aegean Sea (Mykonos, Rhineia, Despotiko, Antiparos, Paros, Naxos), and of the eastern part of the Aegean Sea (Samos, Chios, Ikaria, Lesbos), and some islands in the Ionian Sea, including Corfu. KOCH (1932) stated that *Laudakia* may occur on the island although he did not capture any specimens. KOCH's suggestion was doubted by MERTENS & MÜLLER (1940) and MERTENS (1960), in spite of the fact that this species was observed in 1858 by ERHARD on the



Figs. 8-13: Records of *Hyla arborea arborea* (8), *Testudo hermanni hermanni* (9), *Testudo marginata* (10), *Mauremys rivulata* (11), *Emys orbicularis* (12), and *Caretta caretta caretta* (13) in Corfu Island (Greece). ■ - Data from the literature; ★ - Record of the authors.

Abb. 8-13: Nachweise von *Hyla arborea arborea* (8), *Testudo hermanni hermanni* (9), *Testudo marginata* (10), *Mauremys rivulata* (11), *Emys orbicularis* (12) und *Caretta caretta caretta* (13) auf Korfu (Griechenland). ■ - Literaturangabe; ★ - Nachweis der Autoren.

Ionian island of Kephallinia. BEUTLER (1981) listed this spectacular lizard to occur on Corfu, referring to the papers by KOCH (1932) and MERTENS (1961a). It is interesting that the occurrence of *Laudakia* on Corfu was verified by one of the skeptics (MERTENS 1961a).

There are two hypotheses concerning the occurrence of this species on Corfu, both based on the assumption that this taxon most likely came from the island of Delos. Both NIETHAMMER (1962) and MERTENS (1968) suggested that the species was intentionally introduced during ancient times. However, in the opinion of BUCHHOLZ, the lizards most likely came to the island accidentally as stowaways on ships (MERTENS 1968). The latter hypothesis is supported by the fact that *Laudakia* only occurs in the area of the Lagoon of Kalikiopoulou, which was used as a harbour in ancient times. The occurrence of this species on the island has been recorded by many scientists (KOCH 1932; MERTENS 1960, 1961a, 1968; KATTINGER 1972; BEUTLER 1981; WELCH 1983; WÜTSCHERT 1984, KEYMAR 1986a). WÜTSCHERT (1984) found it in an area surrounding the Kalikiopoulou Lagoon: Agios Kiriaki - Achilleion - Gastori (Perema). MERTENS (1961a) observed the species at Perema and at the southern part of the Kalikiopoulou Lagoon and presented its distribution range on the island as follows: in the north to the south-eastern part of the Kalikiopoulou Lagoon, in the south to Agios Kiriaki (Achilleion) and to the east to the seaside of Perema. KÜCHLER (1979) found it between Perama and Achilleion, GRUNDKE (1988) at Kanalia.

We and our colleagues, found the species at Achilleion and Gastouri. It was also observed at Benitses (OROSZ and NÉMETH pers. comm.) and at Perema (SZÖVÉNYI and NÉMETH pers. comm.). The species inhabits a wide range of habitats ranging from the graveyards to the telephone poles, olive trees and even tennis courts.

Anguis fragilis fragilis
(LINNAEUS, 1758) (fig. 16)

This species' occurrence on Corfu has been documented by many scientists (WERNER 1894, 1930, 1933; MERTENS 1960, 1961a, 1968; PETZOLD 1971; DELY 1981; WÜTSCHERT 1984). WÜTSCHERT (1984) found it at Agios Georgios and Tembloni; MERTENS (1960, 1961a) and WERNER (1927) in the surroundings of the Lagoon of Kalikiopoulou. BOETTGER (1889) found it in the city of Korfu and WERNER (1927, 1929) recorded its presence at Agios Mattheos and Gastouri. CABELA & GRILLITSCH (1989) mentioned specimens collected from Linia, Benitses, Gastouri, the city of Korfu, Ipsos, Spartilas and Sidari. Our colleagues captured a female in 1991 10 km north of Gardiki (SZABÓ pers. comm.) and another specimen was found in 1994 at Mesongi (SZÖVÉNYI pers. comm.). Both of these specimens exhibited a black dorsal band. This morph was also observed by BOETTGER (1889) and WERNER (1929). We (TM, BÚ) observed this species at Val de Ropa and Gouvia.

Pseudopus apodus thracius
(OBST, 1978) (fig. 17)

Pseudopus apodus thracius is a common species on the island. Its occurrence was confirmed by CYRÉN (1941), MERTENS (1960, 1961a), PETZOLD (1971), OBST (1981) and WÜTSCHERT (1984). According to the last author it occurs at Argirades and Skripero. MERTENS (1960, 1961a) recorded this species between the city of Korfu and Peleka, from the surroundings of the Peleka peak and from the Lagoon of Kalikiopoulou. KATTINGER (1972) mentions the population of Peleka referring to MERTENS (1960). Our colleagues found *Pseudopus* at Mesongi (SZÖVÉNYI pers. comm.), north and south of Benitses (OROSZ and NÉMETH pers. comm.), Kalami (OROSZ pers. comm.) and at the Kassiopi Bay (OROSZ and NÉMETH pers. comm.). We (TM, BÚ) observed mating a pair at Pantokrator, and other individuals between Neohoraki and Kouspades, Achilleion, Tembloni, between Papathanatika and Giatri and Zigos.

Algyroides nigropunctatus nigropunctatus
(DUMÉRIL & BIBRON, 1839) (fig. 18)

The occurrence of *Algyroides nigropunctatus* on Corfu has been reported by DE BETTA (1868), BEDRIAGA (1881, 1897), BOULENGER (1887, 1920), BOETTGER (1888, 1889), WERNER (1894, 1929, 1930, 1933, 1938), BREHM (1912), MERTENS (1960,

1961a, 1968), Kattinger (1972), Mahnert (1973), Bischoff (1981) and Wütschert (1984). *Algyroides. nigropunctatus* is certainly the most common reptile species on the island. It occurs in all kinds of habitats both natural and those severely altered by man. It has been recorded from Agios Mattheos (Werner 1927), Benites (Mertens 1961a; Wütschert 1984), Gastouri (Werner 1894), Achilleion (Kattinger 1972), between Achilleion and Perema (Mertens 1960, 1961a), Perema (Küchler 1979), Glifada (Kabisch 2001), the Lagoon of Kalikiopoulou (Werner 1929; Mertens 1961a), Kanoni (Werner 1894; Mertens 1960), between Analipsis and Kanoni (Mertens 1961a), Mon Repo (Koch 1932; Mertens 1960), the city of Korfu, (De Betta 1868; Boettger 1889; Koch 1932; Mertens 1960, 1961a; Hanger 1984; Kabisch 2001), Kastrades (Koch 1932), Kanalia (Wütschert 1984; Grundke 1988), the surroundings of Potamos (Koch 1932; Mertens 1961a), Lake Counoupena (Mertens 1961a), Paleokastritsa (Koch 1932), Lakones and Sidari (Mertens 1961a). Thus this species is found over most of the island with the possible exception of the area south of Benitses where Küchler (1979) did not find it. Mertens (1960, 1961a) and Wütschert (1984) stated that specimens occur in pairs, which was not supported by our observations. We observed the species in the following locations: Chlomos (TT), Lake Korission (Szövényi pers. comm.), Mesongi (Tartally pers. comm., TT), Benitses (Németh pers. comm.), Achilleion (TT), Perema (TT, Tartally pers. comm.), Tembloni (TT, TM, BÚ), Gouvia (TM, BÚ), Paleokastritsa (TT), between Papathanatika and Giatri (TM, BÚ), Skripero (TT), in the surroundings of Zigos (TT), on the Pantokrator mountain (even close to the peak which is 960 m a.s.l.) (TT, TM, BÚ), Sidari (TT) and on Pondikonisi Island (TT). This species also inhabits the small islands off Corfu and Koch (1932) found it on the Island of Vido.

Lacerta trilineata trilineata
Bedriaga, 1886 (fig. 19)

This species is also quite common on Corfu, and has thus been reported by several authors: Bedriaga (1881), Boettger (1889), Werner (1894, 1902, 1929, 1930, 1933), Mertens (1960, 1961a, 1968), Küchler (1979), Nettmann & Rykena (1984a) and Wütschert (1984). *Lacerta trilineata* has been recorded at the following localities: Korission (Kattinger 1972; Wütschert 1984), Agios Kiriaki (Boettger 1889), between Perema and Achilleion (Mertens 1960, 1961a), Perema (Mertens 1961a); between Korfu and Achilleion (Werner 1894; Koch 1932), between Korfu and Gastouri (Werner 1894; Koch 1932), between Korfu and Kanoni (Werner 1902), at the southern part of the Kalikiopoulou Lagoon and Mirtiotissa monastery (Mertens 1961a), Peleka (Boettger 1889; Mertens 1961a), Tembloni and Skripero (Wütschert 1984), bridge of Pheleka and east of Sidari close to the Fonissa River (Mertens 1961a); Paleokastritsa, the Pantokrator mountain, and on Vido Island (Koch 1932), Strinilas on the Pantokrator mountain and the areas of Kritika and Lefkimmi (Mertens 1968). Mertens (1968) was not able to determine the taxonomic status of the two specimens collected in the two last mentioned habitats.

We and our colleagues observed this species at Perivoli (Németh pers. comm.), Chlomos (Szövényi pers. comm.), Korission (Tartally, Szabó & Szövényi pers. comm.), between Saetas and Vranganiotika (TM, BÚ), Mesongi (Szövényi and Tartally pers. comm.), Benitses (Orosz pers. comm.), south of Benitses (Németh pers. comm.), Achilleion (Orosz pers. comm., TT), Perema (TT), Tembloni (TT, TM, BÚ), Liapades (TT), between Papathanatika and Giatri (TM, BÚ), Agios Markos (Zábrácki pers. comm.), on the Pantokrator mountain (TM, BÚ), Kassiopi (Németh and Orosz pers. comm.) and Cape Agios Ekaterini (TM, BÚ).

Lacerta viridis meridionalis
Cyrén, 1933 (fig. 20)

There are only a few reports available concerning this species' occurrence on Corfu (Werner 1927; Koch 1932; Mertens 1961a, 1968; Nettmann & Rykena 1984b). In 1961a Mertens stated that all green lizards collected on Corfu should be considered as *Lacerta trilineata* Bedriaga, 1886.

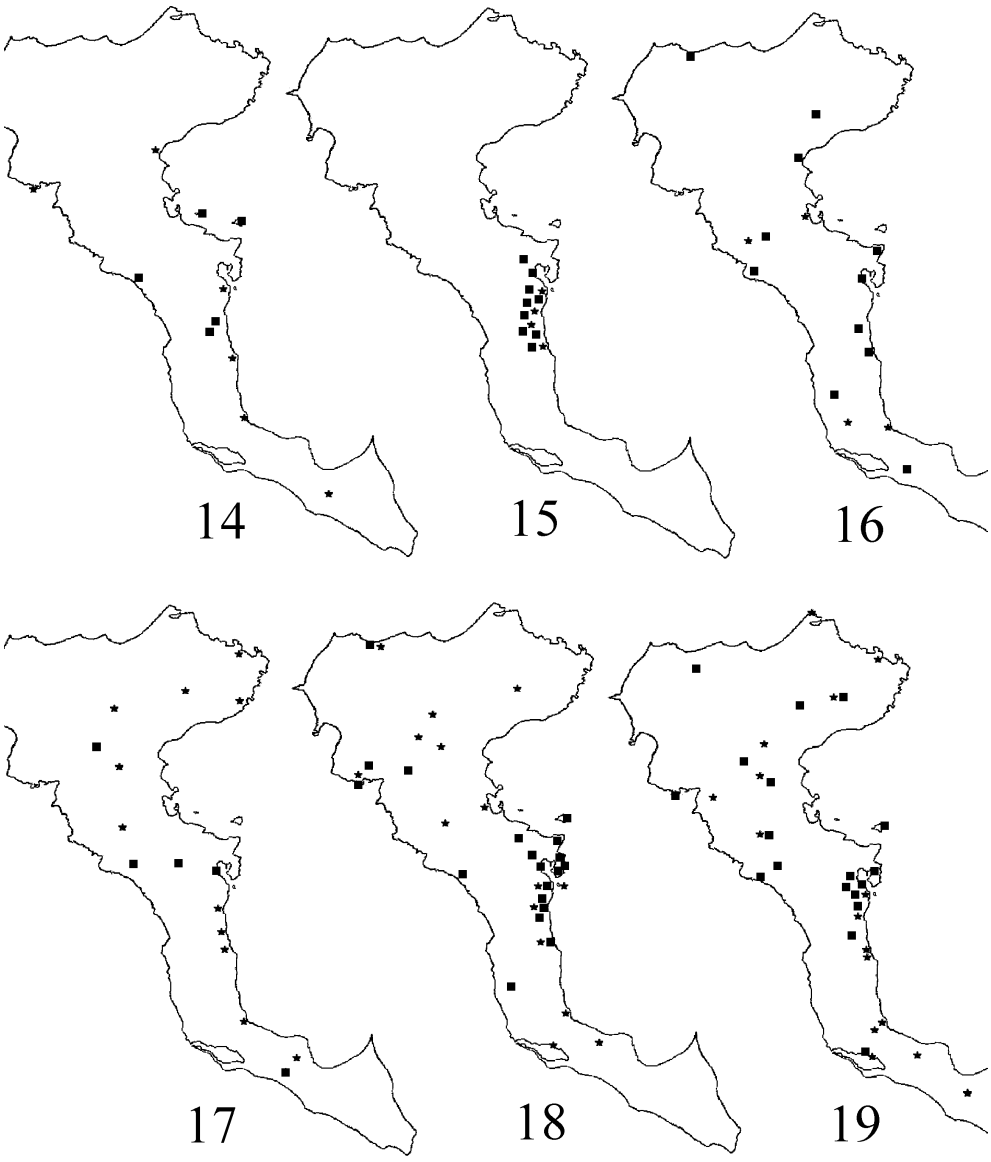


Fig. 14-19: Records of *Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus* (14), *Laudakia stellio stellio* (15), *Anguis fragilis fragilis* (16), *Pseudopus apodus thracius* (17), *Algyroides nigropunctatus nigropunctatus* (18), and *Lacerta trilineata trilineata* (19) in Corfu Island (Greece). ■ - Data from the literature; ★ - Record of the authors.

Abb. 14-19: Nachweise von *Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus* (14), *Laudakia stellio stellio* (15), *Anguis fragilis fragilis* (16), *Pseudopus apodus thracius* (17), *Algyroides nigropunctatus nigropunctatus* (18) und *Lacerta trilineata trilineata* (19) auf Korfu (Griechenland). ■ - Literaturangabe; ★ - Nachweis der Autoren.

However, in 1968 MERTENS revised his opinion and wrote that two specimens captured by NIETHAMMER (1962) at the coast of the Lagoon of Kalikiopoulou and between Kritika and Lefkimmi indeed should be regarded as *L. viridis*. WÜTSCHERT (1984) was unable to find the lizard on the island, whereas KOCH (1932) found this species at Paleokastritsa, Achilleion, Korfu and on the Island of Lazaret. According to NETTMANN & RYKENA (1984b) the taxonomical status of the specimens from Corfu is still unsettled, in that it is not known if they represent the nominal form or the subspecies *meridionalis*. WETTSTEIN (1953), PETERS (1962) and MERTENS (1968) considered some specimens as hybrids of *L. viridis* and *L. trilineata*. KEYMAR (1984) refers to the paper of MAYER & TIEDEMANN (1985) in which the latter authors state that based on electrophoretic data, both *L. trilineata* and *L. viridis* do occur on Corfu Island.

Podarcis taurica ionica
(LEHRS, 1902) (fig. 21)

The first records of this species' occurrence on the island were made by DE BETTA (1868) and BEDRIAGA (1886). The following authors have recorded this species on Corfu: BEDRIAGA (1881), BOETTGER (1888, 1889), WERNER (1894, 1902, 1929, 1930, 1933), SCHREIBER (1912), MERTENS & MÜLLER (1928), KOCH (1932), MERTENS (1961a, 1968), KATTINGER (1972), WELCH (1983), WÜTSCHERT (1984) and KABISCH (1986). WÜTSCHERT (1984) recorded the species exclusively in the northern part of the island, at the Lagoon of Kalikiopoulou, Agios Georgios, Ermones, and Tembloni and was unable to find it in the southern part. *Podarcis taurica ionica* has been reported from Achilleion and Kastrades and the islands of Vido and Lazaret (KOCH 1932), Kanoni and between Sidari and the Fonissa River (KÜCHLER 1979), the area between Analipsis and Kanoni, from Potamos and from between Sidari and the Fonissa River (MERTENS 1961a), the area between Korfu and Kanoni (WERNER 1902), the city of Korfu (BOETTGER 1889) and Sidari (MERTENS 1960, 1961a).

We observed it at Mesongi (TARTALLY and SZÖVÉNYI pers. comm.), at Sidari (TT, SZÖVÉNYI pers. comm.), Val de Ropa (TM, BÚ), Tembloni (TM, BÚ), Gouvia (TM, BÚ) and Ipsos (ZÁBRÁCKI pers. comm.). The discovery of the lizard at Mesongi, refutes the hypothesis of WÜTSCHERT (1984) and demonstrates that this species also occurs in the southern part of the island.

Ablepharus kitaibelii fitzingeri
MERTENS, 1952 (fig. 22)

This taxon was recorded on the island by WERNER (1894), MERTENS (1968), GRUBER (1981) and KEYMAR (1984). A record made by M. SCHETTY in the surroundings of Ipsos was published by MERTENS (1968). WÜTSCHERT (1984) captured a specimen at Skripero. We observed this species at Ipsos (ZÁBRÁCKI pers. comm.) and at Gouvia (TM, BÚ).

Typhlops vermicularis
MERREM, 1820 (fig. 23)

DE BETTA recorded the species for the first time from Corfu in 1868. The second specimen was captured almost one hundred years later, in 1960, at Lake Counoupena, between Paleokastritsa and the Pheleka bridge (MERTENS 1960, 1961a). The following authors mentioned the species' occurrence on Corfu: BEDRIAGA (1881), BOETTGER (1888), WERNER (1912, 1930, 1938), KATTINGER (1972), WÜTSCHERT (1984), GRUNDKE (1988) and GRILLITSCH & GRILLITSCH (1993). WÜTSCHERT (1984) captured two specimens one in 1979 and one in 1980 under the same rock at Tembloni. He reported that it is well known by the local people in spite of its apparent rareness. This species has also been recorded from the Korission area and Agios Georgios (WÜTSCHERT 1984) and from Sidari (GRUNDKE 1988). We (TM, BÚ) observed a specimen under a piece of corrugated metal at Val de Ropa.

Eryx jaculus turcicus
(OLIVIER, 1801) (fig. 24)

The first specimen found on Corfu was sent to the Natural History Museum in London by Mr. BENGA, when Corfu was still an English colony. It was mentioned in the 1849 snake catalogue by GRAY. The second

specimen was not collected before 1979 (Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève - MHNG), the third one in 1981 (WÜTSCHERT 1984). The occurrence of this species on the island has been reported by BEDRIAGA (1881), BOETTGER (1888), WERNER (1930, 1933), MERTENS (1961a), WELCH (1983), WÜTSCHERT (1984) and TOKAR & OBST (1993). All specimens collected on Corfu have been found in the area surrounding Lake Korission.

Coluber (*Hierophis*) *gemonensis*
(LAURENTI, 1768) (fig. 25)

Considering that this taxon is quite common on Corfu it is remarkable that it has only been listed in comparatively few publications: BEDRIAGA 1881; KOCH 1932; MERTENS 1961a, 1968; CLARK 1968; WELCH 1983; WÜTSCHERT 1984; KEYMAR 1986a; HENLE 1993. This species has been recorded from Achilleion (KOCH 1932), Potamos (MERTENS 1961a), Paleokastritsa (MERTENS 1968), Skripero (WÜTSCHERT 1984). In the last mentioned locality the snake occurs in sympatry with *Coluber* (*Hierophis*) *caspius* (WÜTSCHERT 1984). We (TT, TM, BÚ) observed several specimens on the Pantokrator mountian, between Papathanatika and Giatri (TM, BÚ) and at Vouniatades (FARKAS pers. comm.).

Coluber (*Hierophis*) *caspius*
(GMELIN, 1789) (fig. 26)

BEDRIAGA (1881), WERNER (1903, 1930), BREHM (1912), MERTENS (1961, 1968), CLARK (1968), WÜTSCHERT (1984), KEYMAR (1986a) and ŠČERBAK & BÖHME (1993) reported on the occurrence of this taxon on Corfu. The species has been known from 4 km from Paleokastritsa and the Agios Deka area (GRUNDKE 1988), Ermones and Skripero (WÜTSCHERT 1984), and Ipsos (MERTENS 1961a, 1968). We observed one specimen at Mesongi (SZÖVÉNYI pers. comm.) and one at Val de Ropa (TM, BÚ).

Coluber najadum dahli
SCHINZ, 1833 (fig. 27)

MERTENS (1961a) considered this taxon, together with *Malpolon*, being the most common snake species of Corfu. BEDRIAGA (1881), WERNER (1929, 1930), KÜCHLER (1979), HANGER (1984), KEYMAR (1986a), CHONDROPOULOS (1989), DAREVSKIJ & ŠČERBAK (1993) and BUTTLE (1995) also recorded the snake from the island. WÜTSCHERT (1984) collected several individuals on the walls of the Hotel Corfou Palace. *Coluber najadum dahli* is known from between Perema and Benitses (MERTENS 1960, 1961a), Perama, Afra and Kanalia (MERTENS 1968), the city of Korfu (HANGER 1984), Paleokastritsa (KOCH 1932), Doukades and Skripero (WÜTSCHERT 1984).

We observed this species south of Benitses (NÉMETH pers. comm.), in the park of the Sissi Palace of Achilleion (OROSZ pers. comm.), Achilleion (TT), in the region between Achilleion and the coast (NÉMETH pers. comm.), Perema (TARTALLY pers. comm., TT), Val de Ropa (TM, BÚ), Tembloni (TM, BÚ), Gouvia (TM, BÚ), Zigos (TM, BÚ) and on the Pantokrator mountain (TM, BÚ).

Elaphe longissima longissima
(LAURENTI, 1768) (Fig. 28)

The presence of this species on Corfu was unknown until 1980 when a specimen was collected at Korission (WÜTSCHERT 1984) and is now a part of the collection of the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva. KEYMAR (1986a), CHONDROPOULOS (1989) and BÖHME (1993) refer to the work of WÜTSCHERT (1984) when mentioning the snake's occurrence on Corfu. Considering that only a single specimen has been collected ever, this species must certainly be regarded as extremely rare on the island.

Elaphe quatuorlineata quatuorlineata
(LACÉPÈDE, 1789) (fig. 29)

This species is widespread throughout the entire island. MERTENS (1960, 1961a, 1968) collected a juvenile in the southern part of the Kalikiopulou Lagoon and observed the species at Perema and between Perema and Benitses. The species is also known from Val de Ropa (WERNER 1927, 1938), Skripero, Gastouri and Alimatades (WÜTSCHERT 1984); KÜCHLER (1979) found it at Kanoni, GRUNDKE (1988) at Chlomati-

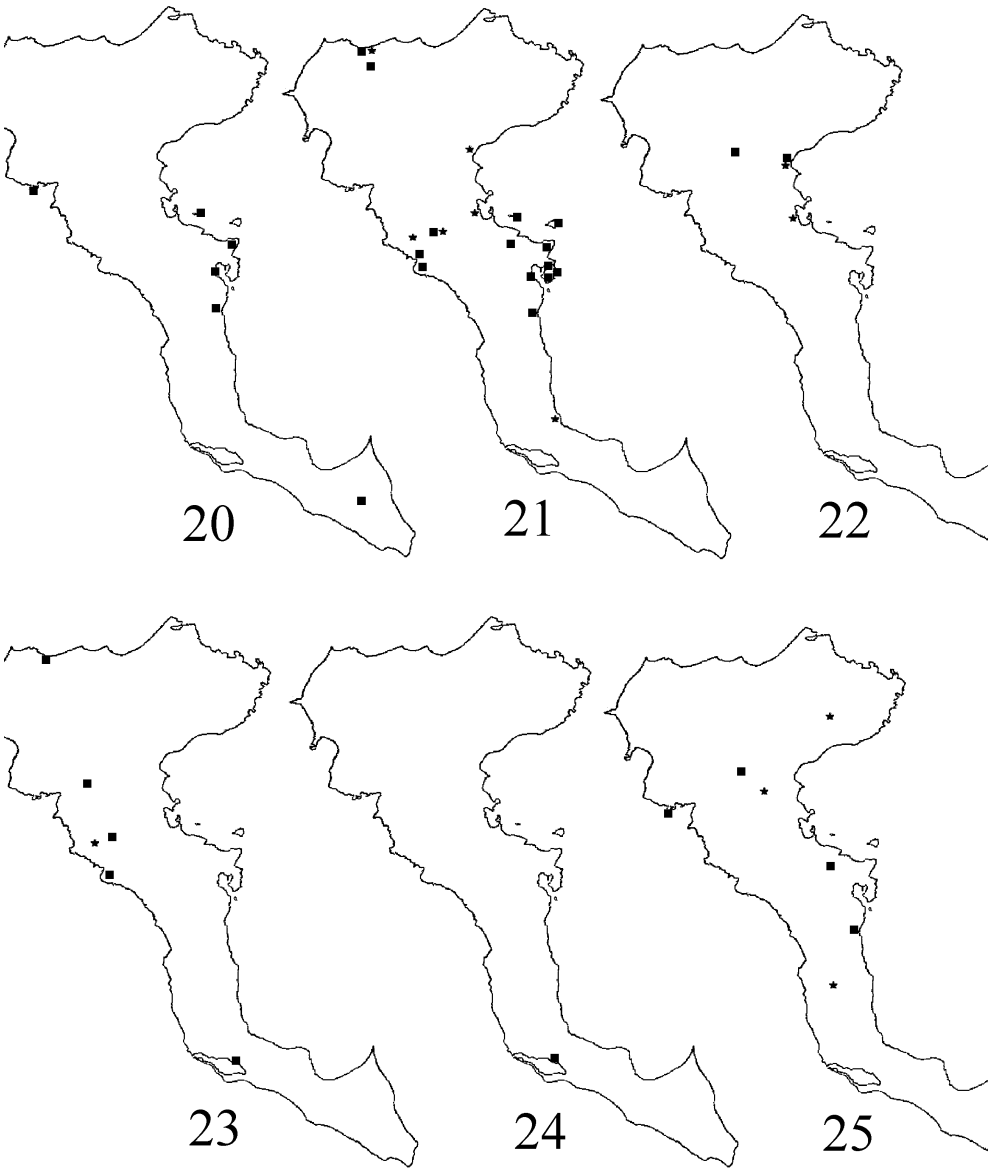


Fig. 20-25: Records of *Lacerta viridis meridionalis* (20), *Podarcis taurica ionica* (21), *Ablepharus kitaibelii fizingeri* (22), *Typhlops vermicularis* (23), *Eryx jaculus turcicus* (24), and *Coluber* (*Hierophis*) *gemonensis* (25) in Corfu Island (Greece). ■ - Data from the literature; ★ - Record of the authors.

Abb. 20-25: Nachweise von *Lacerta viridis meridionalis* (20), *Podarcis taurica ionica* (21), *Ablepharus kitaibelii fizingeri* (22), *Typhlops vermicularis* (23), *Eryx jaculus turcicus* (24) und *Coluber* (*Hierophis*) *gemonensis* (25) auf Korfu (Griechenland). ■ - Literaturangabe; ★ - Nachweis der Autoren.

na. WERNER (1929, 1930), MERTENS (1961b), KEYMAR (1986a), CHONDROPOULOS (1989), BÖHME & ŠČERBAK (1993) and BUTTLE (1995) mentioned *E. quatuorlineata* from Corfu. We (TM, BÚ) recorded this species between Linia and Argirades, between Saetas and Vranganiotika, at Achilleion, Gouvia and on the Pantokrator mountain. Our colleagues found the snake at Mesongi (TARTALLY pers. comm.) and south of Benitses (OROSZ and NÉMETH pers. comm.).

Elaphe situla
(LINNAEUS, 1758) (fig. 30)

JAN (1863) was the first who recorded this taxon from Corfu. *Elaphe situla* is a rare species on the island, but both the spotted and the striped morphs have been found (WÜTSCHERT 1984). The occurrence of this snake on Corfu has also been mentioned by BEDRIAGA (1881), BOETTGER (1889), WERNER (1930), CHONDROPOULOS (1989), OBST et al. (1993). This beautiful snake has been known from Gastouri and Strinilas (MERTENS 1968) as well as Skripero and Spartilas (WÜTSCHERT 1984). SZÖVÉNYI (pers. comm.) found a striped adult female in the vicinity of Perema.

Natrix natrix persa
(PALLAS, 1814) (fig. 31)

This species has been recorded from the following localities on Corfu: Kritika, Agios Kiriaki, the Kalikiopoulou area and the city of Korfu (MERTENS 1960, 1961a), Stavros, Ermones and Tembloni (WÜTSCHERT 1984), Gastouri (BOETTGER 1889), Paleokastritsa (WERNER 1894) and Sidari (MERTENS 1960, 1961a; GRUNDKE 1988). The snake's occurrence was mentioned by BOETTGER (1888), WERNER (1929, 1930, 1933), MERTENS (1968), ONDRIAS (1968), HANGER (1984), KEYMAR (1986a), CHONDROPOULOS (1989), BUTTLE (1995) and KABISCH (1999). We observed this taxon at one of the ponds close to Tembloni (TT, TM, BÚ).

Natrix tessellata tessellata
(LAURENTI, 1768) (fig. 32)

The earliest record of this taxon on the island (Kalikiopoulou Lagoon) was mentioned by MERTENS (1960, 1961a, 1968). HOFER (1967) captured a specimen at Kap Vareras, a locality which was also quoted by KÜCHLER (1979) and WÜTSCHERT (1984). WÜTSCHERT (1984) considered 20 percent of the population at Kap Veras being melanistic. The species has also been recorded from brackish waters on Kannoni Peninsula (KATTINGER 1972; KÜCHLER 1979) and the fresh water ponds close to Tembloni (WÜTSCHERT 1984). ONDRIAS (1968), KEYMAR (1986a), CHONDROPOULOS (1989), BUTTLE (1995) and GRUSCHWITZ et al. (1999) noted the occurrence of this taxon on Corfu without further locality details.

Malpolon monspessulanus insignitus
(GÉOFFROY, 1827) (fig. 33)

The occurrence of this taxon on Corfu is well known (DE BETTA 1868; BEDRIAGA 1881; BOETTGER 1889; SCHREIBER 1912; WERNER 1930, 1933; MERTENS 1960, 1961a, 1968; KATTINGER 1972; WÜTSCHERT 1984; KEYMAR 1986b; GRUBER 1989; DE HAAN 1999). It appears to be found over most of the island and has been recorded at the following localities: Argirades, Chlomos (MERTENS 1960, 1961a), Korission, Tembloni, Ermones Kalikiopoulou Lagoon, Skripero and Vido Island (WÜTSCHERT 1984), Kanoni (MERTENS 1961a; KÜCHLER 1979), between Korfu and Kanoni (MERTENS 1968), between the Pheleka bridge and Paleokastritsa (MERTENS 1961a), Giatri (GRUNDKE 1988) Lake Conoupena (MERTENS 1960), Sidari (MERTENS 1961a; WÜTSCHERT 1984).

We observed this species between Perivoli and Ano Lefkimmi (TM, BÚ), between Neohoraki and Kouspades (TM, BÚ), between Saetas and Vranganiotika (TM, BÚ), south of Moraitika (OROSZ pers. comm.), at Tembloni (TM, BÚ) and at Gouvia (TM, BÚ).

Telescopus fallax fallax
(FLEISCHMANN, 1831)

MERTENS (1961a) was surprised that this species had not been recorded on Corfu since it was known to occur on the nearby Albanian coast. However, he was apparently not aware of the publication by WERNER (1908) who captured the first specimen on

the island. This specimen is deposited in the collection of the Natural History Museum in Geneva (MHNG) (GRILLITSCH & GRILLITSCH 1999). The species has also been reported to occur on the island by BUTTLE (1995).

Vipera ammodytes meridionalis
BOULENGER, 1903 (fig. 34)

Surprisingly, the first specimen of *Vipera* was not captured until 1926, when BERGER found it on the Agios Mattheos Mountain (elevation 465 m) (WERNER 1927, 1929). MERTENS (1961a, 1968), BIELLA (1983), WÜTSCHERT (1984) and SCHWEIGER (1992) recorded the occurrence of the taxon on Corfu. WÜTSCHERT (1984) and SCHWEIGER (1992) reported some specimens to be uniformly grey or reddish. This species is most probably widespread and quite common throughout the island although many authors consider it being rare. There are no data available concerning snakebite from the island. This taxon has been recorded form the following localities: Argirades, Korission, Tembloni, Alimatades, Skripero (WÜTSCHERT 1984), Agios Mattheos (WERNER 1929, 1938; MERTENS 1968), Afra and Pantokrator (MERTENS 1968). We found a specimen between Neohoraki and Kouspades (TM, BÚ), a female north of Benitses (OROSZ pers. comm.), another south of Benitses (NÉMETH pers. comm.), three specimens at Tembloni (TM, BÚ), a juvenile in the Doukades area (OROSZ pers. comm.), two specimens in the suburbs of Ipsos (ZÁBRÁCKI pers. comm.), one on the road from Skripero to Agios Markos (ZÁBRÁCKI pers. comm.), two between Papathanatika and Giatri (TM, BÚ), and an adult female in the Petalia region (TT).

Laticauda colubrina
(SCHNEIDER, 1799) (fig. 32)

In 1993 STEINICKE & TRUTNAU published an amazing observation of GRUBER, who, in June 1985, saw a specimen of *Laticauda colubrina* on the north-eastern coast of Corfu, at Paleokastritsa. He was able to observe the specimen for 15-20 minutes and to obtain a photo of the snake. This observation is certainly quite remarkable, as the distribution of this taxon is restricted to the eastern part of the Indian Ocean and the western part of the Pacific. How this specimen ended up along the coast of Corfu remains a mystery.

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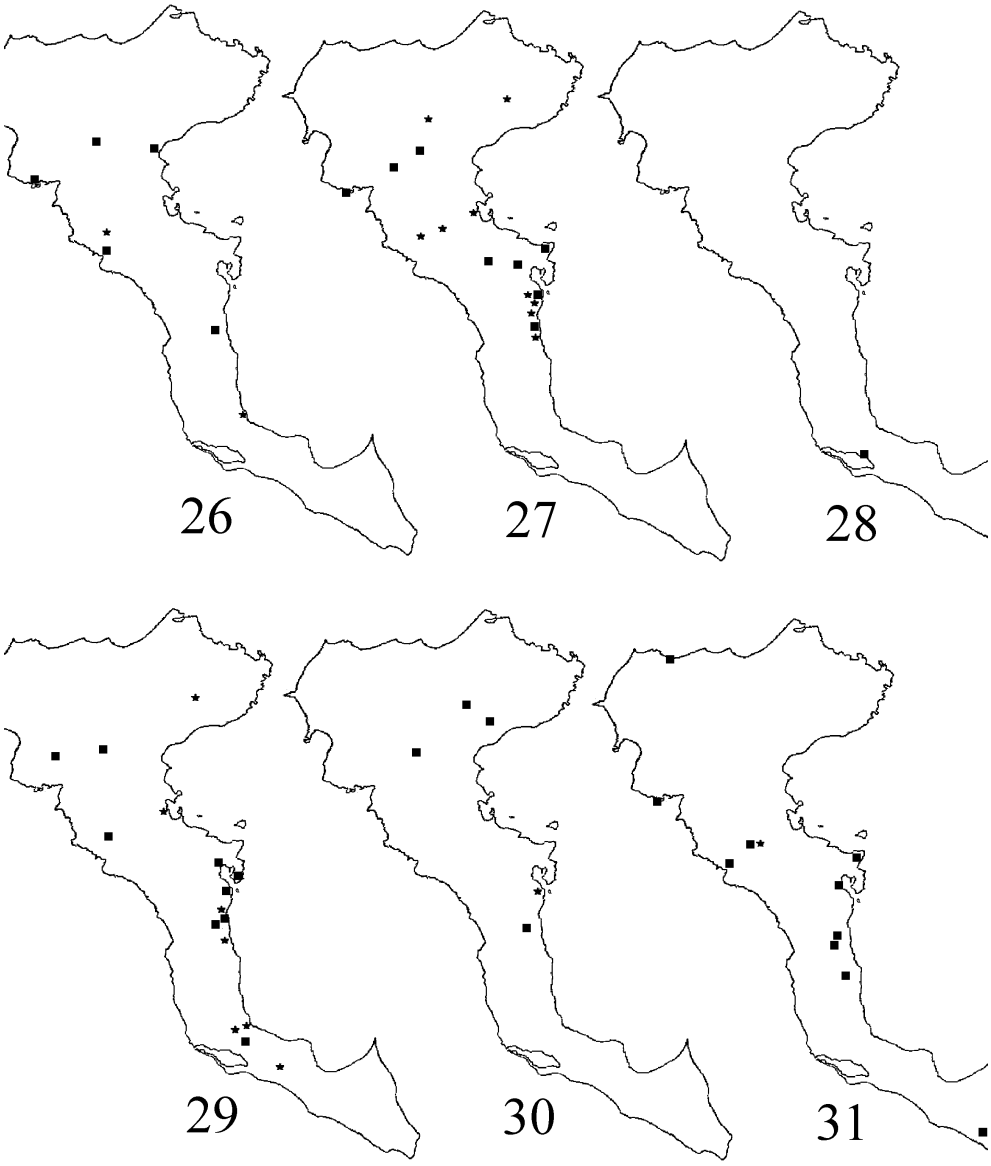

Fig. 26-31: Records of *Coluber* (*Hierophis*) *caspius* (26), *Coluber najadum dahli* (27), *Elaphe longissima longissima* (28), *Elaphe quatuorlineata quatuorlineata* (29), *Elaphe situla* (30), and *Natrix natrix persa* (31) in Corfu Island (Greece). ■ - Data from the literature; ★ - Record of the authors.

Abb. 26-31: Nachweise von *Coluber* (*Hierophis*) *caspius* (26), *Coluber najadum dahli* (27), *Elaphe longissima longissima* (28), *Elaphe quatuorlineata quatuorlineata* (29), *Elaphe situla* (30) und *Natrix natrix persa* (31) auf Korfu (Griechenland). ■ - Literaturangabe; ★ - Nachweis der Autoren.

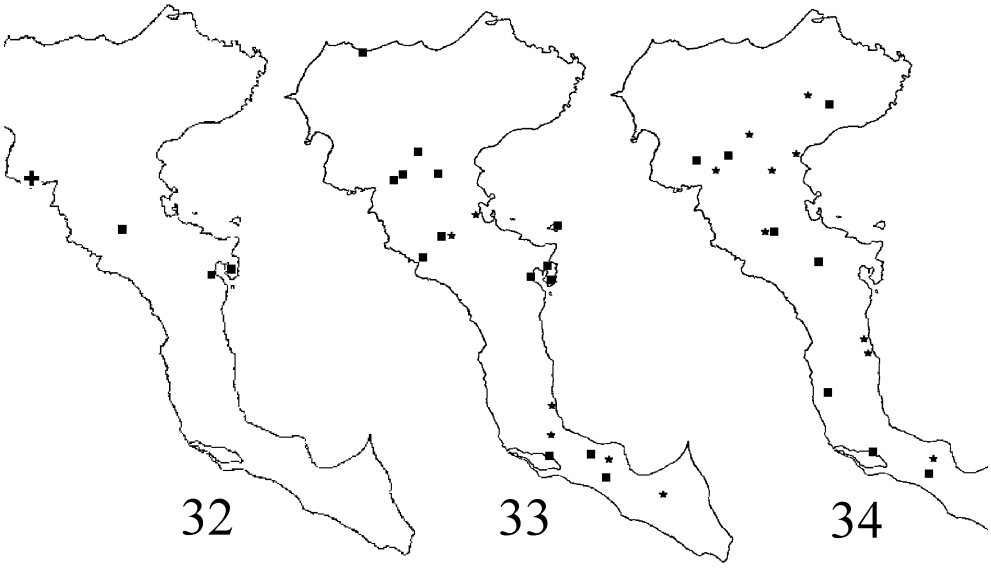

Fig. 32-34: Records of *Natrix tessellata tessellata* (■) (32), *Laticauda colubrina* (✚) (32), *Malpolon monspessulanus insignitus* (33), and *Vipera ammodytes meridionalis* (34) in Corfu Island (Greece). ■ ✚ - Data from the literature; ★ - Record of the authors.

Abb. 32-34: Nachweise von *Natrix tessellata tessellata* (■) (32), *Laticauda colubrina* (✚) (32), *Malpolon monspessulanus insignitus* (33) und *Vipera ammodytes meridionalis* (34) auf Korfu (Griechenland). ■ ✚ - Literaturangabe; ★ - Nachweis der Autoren.

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