

Short note

New data on the herpetofauna of Mount Ismaros, Northern Greece

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Abstract. Field surveys were conducted on 10-11.05.2023 and 17-18.06.2023 by observation of live individuals or road kills and active searching under stones and artificial materials. A total of 12 species were recorded: three amphibian species and nine reptiles. Six of the reptile species were new records to Mount Ismaros. Now the list of the herpetofauna of the area is consisted of 19 known species.

Key words: biodiversity, reptiles, distribution.

Introduction

The information about the herpetofauna of Mount Ismaros is scarce. Georgiev & Mollov (2016) reported of five amphibian species - *Lisstriton vulgaris*, *Bufo bufo*, *Bufo viridis* complex, *Hyla arborea* complex and *Pelophylax ridibundus*, and eight reptiles - *Testudo graeca*, *Mauremys rivulata*, *Medio-dactylus kotschyi*, *Pseudopus apodus*, *Lacerta viridis*, *Xerotyphlops vermicularis*, *Natrix natrix* and *Malpolon insignitus*. Closest to the study area is the Evros Province, where Helmer & Scholte (1985) reported 12 amphibian species and 27 reptiles, including all species reported by Georgiev & Mollov (2016), except for *Xerotyphlops vermicularis*. In this short note I add 6 more reptile species to the list of Mount Ismaros and present new distributional data about some of the already known species to the area.

Materials and Methods

Mount Ismaros is a small mountain massif (highest point: Ismaros Peak, 681 m)

situated about 40 km west of Alexandroupolis Town (Northern Greece) reaching the shore line of the Aegean Sea. It is the southernmost thin and elongate part of the large Rhodope Mts chain and is set apart as a separate mountain. The predominant vegetation is presented mainly by evergreen shrubs *Quercus coccifera*, which are dominate on rocky landscapes and pine forests of *Pinus halepensis*. Also there are some relatively large areas occupied by *Platanus orientalis* L. forests along small rivers and drying streams, and some olive tree (*Olea europaea*) plantations near the villages (Georgiev & Ivanova, 2015).

Field surveys were conducted on 10-11.05.2023 and 17-18.06.2023 by distant observations, road kills examination, active searching under stones and artificial materials, and rescuing animals from artificial structures (two tortoises from an agricultural building near Krovili village) and releasing them back in the nature. The localities were marked by a GPS receiver. The taxonomy

follows Speybroeck et al. (2010) and Hedges et al. (2014).

Results

A total of 12 species were recorded: three amphibian species and nine reptiles

(Table 1). Six of the reptile species were new records to Mount Ismaros. Now the list of the herpetofauna of the area is consisted of 19 known species.

Table 1. Amphibian and reptile species recorded from Mount Ismaros during the present study.

Species	Date	Coordinates	Locality	Habitat	Specimens
<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>	10.05.2023	N40°56'46.3"E25°36'23.3"	N of Rock of Petrota	puddle among shrubs	1 ad.
<i>Bufo bufo</i>	10.05.2023	N40°54'00.5"E25°36'28.2"	Petrota village	dirt road	1 ad., roadkill
<i>Bufo viridis</i>	10.05.2023	N40°54'49.7"E25°36'53.9"	N of Petrota village	old rock quarry	1 ad.
<i>Testudo graeca</i>	10.05.2023	N40°52'06.7"E25°36'01.7"	Camping of Petrota beach	shrubs	1 juv., 2 ad. ♀
	10.05.2023	N40°54'49.7"E25°36'53.9"	N of Petrota village	old rock quarry	1 ad. ♂
	11.05.2023	N40°56'45.0"E25°33'11.5"	W of Krovili village	agricultural building	1 ad.
	17.06.2023	N40°55'04.6"E25°30'53.4"	N of Maronia village	dump among shrubs	1 juv., 1 dead ad. ♂
	17.06.2023	N40°53'40.4"E25°30'41.2"	S of Maronia village	grassland	1 ad.
	18.06.2023	N40°56'01.6"E25°30'59.6"	N of Maronia village	pine forest	1 ad.
<i>Testudo hermanni</i> *	11.05.2023	N40°56'45.0"E25°33'11.5"	W of Krovili village	agricultural building	1 ad.
<i>Pseudopus apodus</i>	10.05.2023	N40°55'19.0"E25°36'52.9"	N of Petrota village	road among shrubs	1 ad., roadkill
<i>Lacerta trilineata</i> *	10.05.2023	N40°55'54.3"E25°36'21.1"	N of Petrota village	grasses and rocks	1 juv.
<i>Podarcis tauricus</i> *	10.05.2023	N40°55'54.3"E25°36'21.1"	N of Petrota village	grasses and rocks	1 ad. ♂
<i>Xerotyphlops vermicularis</i>	17.06.2023	N40°55'04.6"E25°30'53.4"	N of Maronia village	dump among shrubs	1 juv., 1 ad.
	17.06.2023	N40°55'42.0"E25°29'33.9"	S of Polyphemus cave	shrubs	2 juv.
<i>Dolichophis caspius</i> *	10.05.2023	N40°52'06.7"E25°36'01.7"	Camping of Petrota beach	shrubs	1 juv., 1 ad.
<i>Platyceps najadum</i> *	11.05.2023	N40°56'41.7"E25°33'09.8"	W of Krovili village	dump among shrubs	1 juv.
<i>Montivipera xanthina</i> *	17.06.2023	N40°53'40.4"E25°30'41.2"	S of Maronia village	grassland	1 juv.

Legend: * - new records for the area

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