



SPECIES OF THE GENERA: *ALGYROIDES*, *DALMATOLACERTA* AND *DINAROLACERTA* (LACERTIDAE) IN THE COLLECTION OF THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF MONTENEGRO

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SYNOPSIS

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Lacertidae,
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Dalmatolacerta oxycephala,
Dinarolacerta mosorensis,
Crna Gora
(Montenegro).

This paper presents the data on specimens of genera *Algyroides*, *Dalmatolacerta* and *Dinarolacerta* (Lacertidae) stored in the Herpetological Collection of the Natural History Museum of Montenegro. This part of Herpetological Collection includes 185 specimens belonging to 3 species: *Algyroides nigropunctatus* (40 specimens), *Dalmatolacerta oxycephala* (17 specimens) and *Dinarolacerta mosorensis* (128 specimens). All specimens were collected in Montenegro. The paper provides all relevant data on collected specimens.

INTRODUCTION

The Collection of Reptiles at the Natural History Museum of Montenegro was established in 2000. This Collection includes about 400 specimens of reptiles mainly from Montenegro. The base of the present Collection consists of the material inherited from the collection once belonging to the Institute for Nature Protection and several donated specimens. The Collection is steadily increasing, primarily due to curators' activities but also due to donations. Herpetological Collection includes 186 specimens belonging to species: *Algyroides nigropunctatus*, *Dalmatolacerta oxycephala* and *Dinarolacerta mosorensis*.

The Dalmatian Algyroides (*Algyroides nigropunctatus* DUMERIL & BIBRON, 1839) is a Balkan subendemic lacertid lizard. Its distribution is restricted to the Balkan Peninsula, usually occupying degraded scrub and rocky cliff areas, in places associated with the Mediterranean climate along the coastal region of the Adriatic and Ionian seas (BEJAKOVIĆ et al., 1996; CHONDROPOULOS, 1983, 1997). It is a diurnal lizard, very skilful climber which, when disturbed, vanishes very rapidly. Mainland populations hibernate, but in the southern Ionian Islands this species seems to remain active throughout the year.

The Sharp-snouted Rock Lizard [*Dalmatolacerta oxycephala* (DUMERIL & BIBRON, 1839)] previously *Lacerta oxycephala* (see ARNOLD et al., 2007) is a stenoendemic Balkan species, restricted to a narrow zone along the Adriatic coast from the river Krka to the north-western part of Albania (including many islands off the coast). It occurs starting at the sea level to about 1500 m a.s.l., especially on sparsely vegetated stony habitats. It is a relatively small lizard with a flattened short body, long pointed head and a slender tail, and it is timid, agile and good climber.

Mosor Rock Lizard [*Dinarolacerta mosorensis* (KOLOMBATOVIĆ, 1886)], previously *Lacerta mosorensis* (see ARNOLD et al., 2007) represents both a relict and a stenoendemic species of the Balkan Peninsula (e.g. CRNOBRNJA-ISAILOVIĆ & DŽUKIĆ 1997). It is a diurnal, heliothermic, insectivorous, oviparous small lacertid distinctly flattened species with a long head and a long slender tail (ARNOLD & OVENDEN, 2002). Its distribution is restricted to the south-western Dinaric mountain karst in Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania, exposed to the influence of the Mediterranean climate. There, it is patchily distributed, restricted to altitudes ranging between 450 and 1900 m altitude (DŽUKIĆ, 1989; CRNOBRNJA-ISAILOVIĆ & DŽUKIĆ, 1997).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This part of Herpetological Collection includes 185 specimens belonging to 3 species: *Algyroides nigropunctatus*, *Dalmatolacerta oxycephala* and *Dinarolacerta mosorensis*. Lizards were collected with a noose. The most specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol, and certain number of them were cleared with trypsin and KOH (potassium hydroxide), stained with Alizarin Red S and preserved in glycerol (see LJUBISAVLJEVIĆ et al., 2011). Species were identified using available literature (RADOVANOVIĆ, 1951; ARNOLD & BURTON, 1978; BISCHOFF, 1984; ARNOLD & OVENDEN, 2002; KWET, 2009). The most of Collection samples of *Dinarolacerta mosorensis* and

Algyroides nigropunctatus were collected and examined for the purpose of working on MSc and PhD thesis of Lidija Polović, curator in the Herpetological Collection.

These specimens were collected in period 2000-2009, from 12 localities in Montenegro.

List of localities:

Skadar Lake, Golubovo Island	Lovćen, Ivanova korita
Skadar Lake, Bisage Island	Lovćen, Njeguši
Slano Lake, Kuside	Lovćen, under the Jezerski vrh;
Nikšićka Župa, Morakovo	Lovćen, Prijeradi
Prekornica, Bjelopavlička Ponikvica	Kuči, Medun
Prekornica, Srednja Ponikvica	Durmitor, Zminje Lake

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Three species were identified in the studied material: *Algyroides nigropunctatus* (9 males, 27 females and 4 juveniles) (Tab 1.), *Dalmatolacerta oxycephala* (10 males and 7 females) (Tab. 2.) and *Dinarolacerta mosorensis* (43 males, 38 females and 47 juveniles) (Tab. 3.).

The Dalmatian *Algyroides* (*Algyroides nigropunctatus*) population from Bisage Island usually occupies degraded scrub and rocky cliff areas. Bisage Island (42°06'N, 19°21'E) is one of about forty islands of Skadar Lake south archipelago. Vegetation is characterized by dense tree vegetation and grassy fields with boulders of various sizes among large stony patches. *Podarcis melisellensis* inhabits grassy areas of this Island. Presence of this species in Montenegro was first recorded by BOLKAY (1924) at western slopes of Orjen Mountain. According to the literature, it is also distributed in Crmnica: Virpazar (DŽUKIĆ, 1970), Brčela (DŽUKIĆ & PASULJEVIĆ, 1979), between Godinje and Seoca (AJTIĆ et al., 2005); some Islands of Krajina archipelago of Skadar Lake (CRNOBRNJA-ISAILOVIĆ & DŽUKIĆ, 1995; BEJAKOVIĆ et al., 1996); Boka Kotorska bay: Luštica (village Krašići) (AJTIĆ et al., 2005) and Stoliv (DŽUKIĆ, pers. comm.); Dečić hill near Tuzi (AJTIĆ et al., 2005); Canyons of Mrtvica and Morača river (AJTIĆ et al., 2005). During the field work in Kuči, Medun village, on 03.04.2001, the author found 1 juvenile specimen of Dalmatian *Algyroides*. It is a new locality for the distribution of this species in Montenegro. It was confirmed that studied specimens of population from Bisage Island, belong to nominal subspecies *A. nigropunctatus nigropunctatus* (POLOVIĆ & LJUBISAVLJEVIĆ, 2011). We also explored the possible sexual differences in allometric

slopes of the pileus, the dorsal and ventral skull shape, and the pattern of covariation between these cephalic structures. For all three analysed structures: pileus, dorsal and ventral skull, significant sexual dimorphism in size and shape was found (LJUBISAVLJEVIĆ et al., 2011).

Table 1: Specimens of the *Algyroides nigropunctatus* in the Natural History Museum of Montenegro collection.

Collector/ Inventory number	Locality	Specimens	Date	Collector
L 22/797	Kuči, Medun	1 juv.	03.04.2001	L. Polović
L 220/995	Skadar Lake, Bisage Island	1 ♂	16.03.2008	L. Polović
L 240/1015 L 241/1016 L 242/1017 L 243/1018 L 244/2273 L 245/2274 L 246/2275 L 247/2276 L 248/2277 L 249/2278 L 250/2279 L 251/2280 L 252/2281 L 254/2283 L 255/2369 L 256/2284 L 260/2288 L 261/2289	Skadar Lake, Bisage Island	5 ♂ 13 ♀	11 i 12.06.2008	L. Polović, K. Ljubisavljević, G. Džukić, M. Kalezić & T. Vukov
L 287/2339 L 309/2346	Skadar Lake, Bisage Island	1 ♂ 1 ♀	08.05.2009	L. Polović
L 304/2341 L 305/2342 L 312/2349 L 313/2350 L 318/2355	Skadar Lake, Bisage Island	1 ♂ 4 ♀	20.05.2009	L. Polović, K. Ljubisavljević, T. Vukov, & A. Ivanović

L 303/2340 L 306/2343 L 308/2345 L 310/2347 L 311/2348 L 315/2352 L 316/2353	Skadar Lake, Bisage Island	1 ♂ 6 ♀	21.05.2009	L. Polović, K. Ljubisavljević, T. Vukov, & A. Ivanović
L 307/2344 L 314/2351 L 317/2354	Skadar Lake, Bisage Island	3 ♀	22.05.2009	L. Polović, K. Ljubisavljević, T. Vukov, & A. Ivanović
L317d/2363 L 317b/2362 L 317a/2361	Skadar Lake, Bisage Island	3 juv.	28.05.2009	L. Polović
Total number of specimens		40		

The Sharp-snouted Rock Lizard (*Dalmatolacerta oxycephala*) occurs starting at the sea level to about 1500 m a.s.l., especially on sparsely vegetated stony habitats. Our specimens were collected from different altitudes. Most animals at low altitudes on mainland are light buffish grey above with a reticulated pattern. Animals from highland areas and some islands are much darker and may be entirely black above. Mainland populations at middle altitudes have animals of varied colouring (ARNOLD & OVENDEN, 2002).

Mosor Rock Lizard (*Dinarolacerta mosorensis*) sample of the population from the Lovćen Mt. living at 1350 m altitude (Ivanova korita locality, 42°22'N, 18°50'E), at the south-eastern boundary of the distribution range (LJUBISAVLJEVIĆ et al., 2007, POLOVIĆ & LJUBISAVLJEVIĆ, 2007). This population inhabits the cliffs and blocks of rocks surrounded by subalpine beech forest (plant community *Fagetum montenegrinum subalpinum*) with Bosnian pine (*Pinus heldreichii*) as the differential species (TOMIĆ-STANKOVIĆ, 1970). The climate is moderate continental, modified by mountain climatic conditions with an influence from the sea reflected in high precipitation levels (average rainfall is 4207mm, the maximum occurring in November and December) (TOMIĆ-STANKOVIĆ, 1970). The oviposition period, clutch frequency, and geographic variation in female and clutch size (LJUBISAVLJEVIĆ et al., 2007), body size, age structure and growth pattern (TOMAŠEVIĆ-KOLAROV et al., 2010) were analysed using collection samples from the above-mentioned locality and another locality from central part of Montenegro (Prekornica Mt.) (LJUBISAVLJEVIĆ et al., 2007). On the Prekornica Mt. (Ponikvica locality, 1655 m a.s.l.,

42°41'N, 19°16'E), specimens of the Mosor Rock Lizard were found most commonly along cliffs and boulders (LJUBISAVLJEVIĆ et al., 2007) within the forest association *Pinetum heldreichii mediterraneo-montanum* (BLEČIĆ & LAKUŠIĆ, 1969). On the Durmitor Mt. (surroundings of Zminje Lake, 1495 m a.s.l., 43°06'N, 19°04'E), *D. mosorensis* was found in dense populations on limestone rocks. There it occurs in a vegetation belt of mixed mountain forests of beech, Norway spruce, and silver fir *Fageto-Piceto-Abietum* (MARINKOVIĆ, 1996).

Table 2: Specimens of the *Dalmatolacerta oxycephala* in the Natural History Museum of Montenegro collection.

Collector/ Inventory Number	Locality	Specimens	Date	Collector
L 21/796	Skadar Lake, Golubovo Island	1 ♂	05.07.2000	L. Polović
L 49/824	Lovćen, Prijeradi	1 ♀	30.04.2002	L. Polović
L 50/825	Lovćen, Njeguši	1 ♂	30.04.2002	L. Polović
L 56/831 L 57/832 L 58/833	Lovćen, Ivanova Korita	3 ♂	02.10.2002	L. Polović
L191/966	Nikšićka Župa, Morakovo	1 ♂	15.05.2006	L. Polović
L 194/969	Nikšićka Župa, Morakovo	1 ♀	14.06.2006	L. Polović
L 198/973 L 199/974	Prekornica, Bjelopavlička Ponikvica	1 ♀ 1 ♂	18.06.2006	L. Polović
L 206/981	Slano Lake, Kuside	1 ♀	14.04.2007	A. Vizi
L 210/985 L 211/986 L 212/987	Skadar Lake, Golubovo Island	1 ♀ 2 ♂	26.04.2007	L. Polović
L 235/1010 L 236/1011	Skadar Lake, Golubovo Island	1 ♀ 1 ♂	30.05.2008	L. Polović
L 320/2370	Skadar Lake, Golubovo Island	1 ♀	05.06.2009	L. Polović
Total number of specimens		17		

Table 3: Specimens of the *Dinarolacerta mosorensis* in the Natural History Museum of Montenegro collection.

Collector/ Inventory Number	Locality	Specimens	Date	Collector
L 43/818	Lovćen, Jezerski vrh	1 ♂	31.05.2001	L. Polović
L 59/833 L 60/835 L 61/836 L 62/837	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	4 ♂	14.06.2002	L. Polović
L 63/838 L 64/839 L 65/840	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	3 ♂	16.08.2002	L. Polović
L 66/841 L 67/842 L 68/843 L 69/844 L 70/845 L 71/846	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	4 ♂ 2 ♀	19.09.2002	L. Polović
L 72/847 L 73/848 L 74/849	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	2 ♂ 1 ♀	02.10.2002	L. Polović
L 75/850	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	1 ♀	04.10.2002	L. Polović
L 77/852 L 78/853 L 79/854	Prekornica, Srednja Ponikvica	1 ♀ 2 ♂	22.06.2006	L. Polović
L 80/855 L 81/856 L 82/857 L 83/858 L 84/859	Prekornica, Srednja Ponikvica	2 ♀ 3 ♂	24.06.2006	L. Polović
L 85/860	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	1 ♂	28.06.2006	L. Polović
L 86/861 L 87/862 L 88/863 L 89/864 L 90/865	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	2 ♀ 3 ♂	01.07.2006	L. Polović
L 91/866	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	1 ♂	02.07.2006	L. Polović

L 92/867 L 93/868 L 94/869 L 95/870 L 96/871 L 97/872	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	3 ♀ 3 ♂	04.07.2006	L. Polović
L 98/873 L 99/874 L 100/875 L 101/876 L 102/877 L 103/878	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	5 ♀ 1 ♂	07.07.2006	L. Polović
L 104/879 L 105/880 L 106/881 L 107/882 L 108/883	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	3 ♀ 2 ♂	09.07.2006	L. Polović
L 109/884 L 110/885 L 111/886	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	2 ♀ 1 ♂	11.07.2006	L. Polović
L 112/887 L 113/888 L 114/889 L 115/890 L 116/891 L 117/892 L 118/893 L 119/894 L 120/895 L 121/896 L 122/897 L 123/898 L 124/899	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	7 ♀ 6 ♂	13.07.2006	L. Polović
L 125/900 L 126/901 L 127/902 L 128/903 L 129/904 L 130/905 L 131/906 L 132/907	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	5 ♀ 3 ♂	15.07.2006	L. Polović

L 133/908	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	1 juv.	03.08.2006	L. Polović
L 134/909 L 135/910 L 136/911 L 137/912 L 138/913	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	5 juv.	04.08.2006	L. Polović
L 139/914 L 140/915 L 141/916 L 142/917	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	4 juv.	05.08.2006	L. Polović
L 143/918 L 144/919	Prekornica, Srednja Ponikvica	2 juv.	05.08.2006	L. Polović
L 145/920 L 146/921	Prekornica, Srednja Ponikvica	2 juv.	06.08.2006	L. Polović
L 147/922	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	1 juv.	06.08.2006	L. Polović
L 148/923 L 149/924	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	2 juv.	08.08.2006	L. Polović
L 150/925 L 151/926	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	2 juv.	09.08.2006	L. Polović
L 152/927 L 153/928 L 154/929	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	3 juv.	10.08.2006	L. Polović
L 155/930 L 156/931	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	2 juv.	11.08.2006	L. Polović
L 157/932	Prekornica, Srednja Ponikvica	1 juv.	11.08.2006	L. Polović
L 158/933	Prekornica, Srednja Ponikvica	1 juv.	12.08.2006	L. Polović
L 159/934	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	1 juv.	13.08.2006	L. Polović
L 160/935	Prekornica, Srednja Ponikvica	1 juv.	14.08.2006	L. Polović
L 161/936 L 162/937 L 163/938	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	3 juv.	15.08.2006	L. Polović

L 164/939 L 165/940 L 166/941 L 167/942 L 168/943 L 169/944 L 170/945	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	7 juv.	16.08.2006	L. Polović
L 171/946 L 172/947 L 173/948 L 174/949 L 175/950	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	5 juv.	17.08.2006	L. Polović
L 176/951 L 177/952	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	2 juv.	18.08.2006	L. Polović
L 178/953 L 179/954	Lovćen, Ivanova korita	2 juv.	21.08.2006	L. Polović
L 349/2595 L 350/2596 L 351/2597 L 352/2598 L 353/2599 L 354/2600	Durmitor, Zminje Lake	4 ♀ 2 ♂	12.08.2009	L. Polović
L 356/2602	Durmitor, Zminje Lake	1 ♂	16.08.2009	L. Polović
Total number of specimens		128		

CONCLUSION

This part of Herpetological Collection includes 185 specimens collected during the period 2000-2009. Three species were identified in the studied material: *Algyroides nigropunctatus*, 40 specimens (9 males, 27 females and 4 juveniles), *Dalmatolacerta oxycephala*, 17 specimens (10 males and 7 females) and *Dinarolacerta mosorensis*, 128 specimens (43 males, 38 females and 47 juveniles). The material originated from 12 localities in Montenegro

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