


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## Podarcis siculus Rafinesque–Schmaltz, 1810 and Hemidactylus turcicus Linnaeus, 1758, new herpetological records from Trentino–Alto Adige region (Italy)

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# Podarcis siculus and Hemidactylus turcicus, new herpetological records from Trentino-Alto Adige region (Italy)



Andrea Nardelli<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Iversen<sup>2</sup>, Karol Tabarelli de Fatis<sup>3</sup>



The first mention about *Podarcis siculus* Rafinesque-Schmaltz 1810 occurring in the Trentino-Alto Adige (TAA) region comes from De Betta (1857) and Cobelli (1882) who reported its presence in the municipalities of Ala and Rovereto (TN) (9-10). Bruno & Maugeri (1977) suggested the presence of *P. siculus campestris* De Betta 1857 also in the Alto Garda area.

However, recent investigations failed to confirm *P. siculus* for TAA region.

At present, we found *P. siculus* in the municipality of Arco (TN) (1) and, outside TAA borders, in two sites around Lake Garda: in Limone sul Garda (BS) (2) and in Padenghe sul Garda (BS) (3). All the age and sex groups were well represented in the observed populations.

Other observations found in bibliography come from the eastern shore of the lake, on Trimelone isle (VR) (4) and from morenic hills at its southern edge from Mt. Ongarine (VR) (6), Marcellise and Montorio (VR) (7), Monzambano (MN) (5) and Botticino (BS) (8) where *P. siculus* is most likely indigenous.



↑ *P. siculus* from Arco (1° row), Padenghe sul Garda (2° row) and Limone sul Garda (3° row). Note the high dorsal pattern diversity. Collage based on more than 200 observations.

*P. siculus* from the newly investigated populations are quite different in appearance and can be divided in two clusters:

- a smaller “type a” *P. siculus*, with all specimens showing a lineated contrasted dorsal pattern found in Arco. A similar dorsal pattern can be observed also in Monzambano, Montorio, Marcellise and Mount Ongarine and it is typical of *P. s. campestris*.
- a larger “type b” *P. siculus* with highly variable dorsal pattern. This morph type occurs in Limone sul Garda and Padenghe sul Garda. Preliminary data suggest the presence of this morph type also on Trimelone isle.

In Arco, Limone sul Garda and Padenghe sul Garda *P. siculus* is only found in highly anthropic areas, where it could have been inadvertently introduced with commodity trading. However, since *P. siculus* easily colonize urbanized areas throughout its natural range, molecular investigations are needed, especially because morphometric and dorsal pattern diversity does not consent distinguishing *P. siculus* geographical origins. Moreover, the species high inter-population diversity suggests multiple origins from different sites in the Garda area.

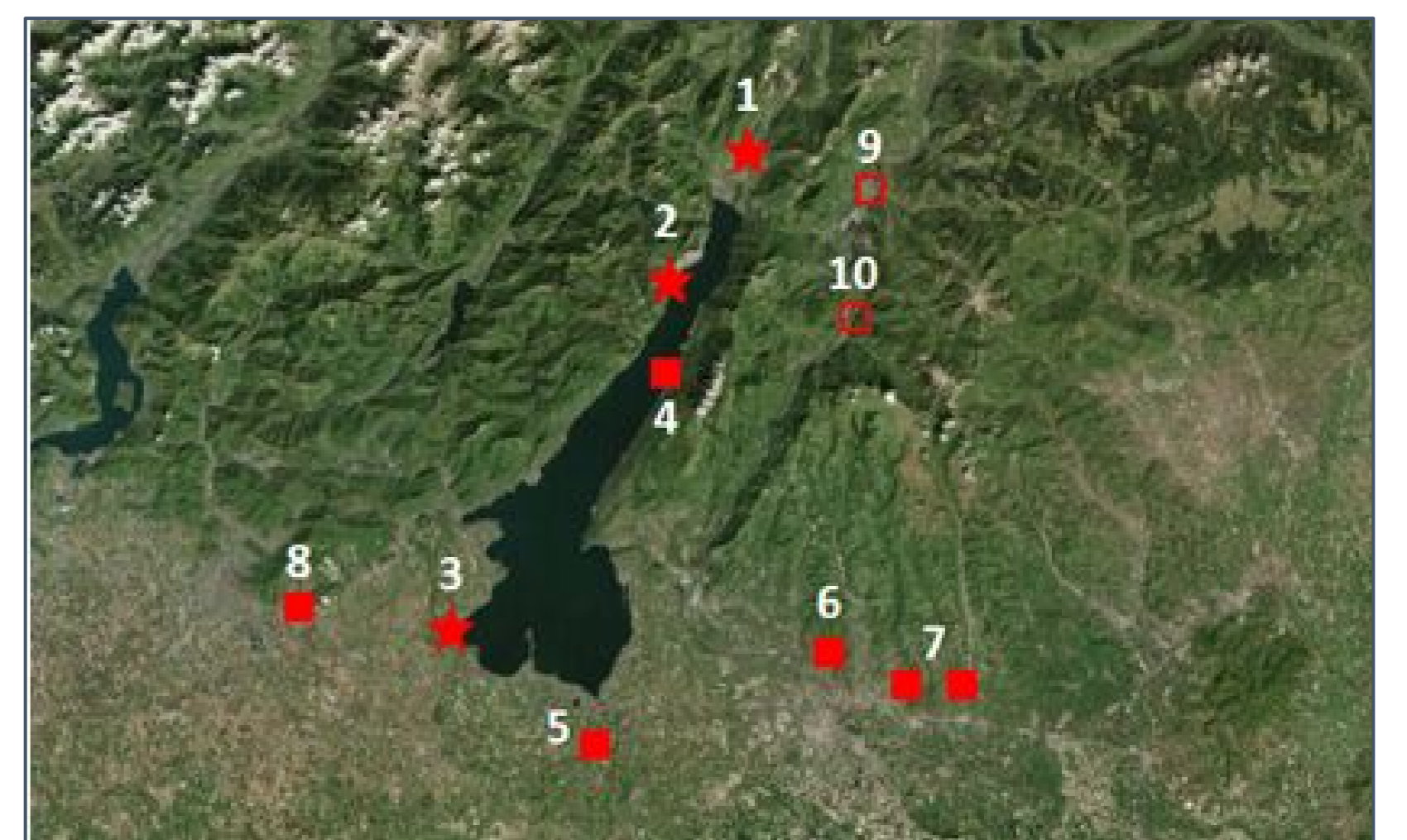
During the 2016 herpetological survey the presence of Mediterranean house gecko *Hemidactylus turcicus* has been documented in Riva del Garda.

This is the first record for the Trento province and the only know reproductive population for TAA (Bolzano province has only one report for a single individual recorded in Termeno; comm. pers. Imperiale G. 2016).

More than 20 animals including different juveniles have been counted. The individuals were located in an area of approx. 10ha without any apparent spatial overlap with *T. mauritanica*.

The presence of the two species in the region should be considered as a consequence of accidental carriage by trains or trucks (e.g. inside fruit boxes). Other interesting causes registered were:

- carriage in olive blunts sold for woodcrafts
- falling from motorhomes coming back from southern Italy
- only one case of deliberate release, even if repeated along the years, was reported



↑ Localities where *P. siculus* was found  
 ★ - new findings  
 ■ - historical data  
 □ - probably extinct  
 Numbers refer to locality names cited in text



↑ *P. siculus* from Arco (A - one of the 50 specimens observed), *H. turcicus* (B, juvenile and adult) and *T. mauritanica* (C) from Riva del Garda. The last one was observed in Riva del Garda until '90 but we found this species also in other municipalities of Trentino province (Arco, Giovo, Mori, Rovereto, Nago-Torbole and Trento)

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