

Herpetological observations in Turkey (1987-1995)

Mulder, J., 1995 - Herpetological observations in Turkey (1987-1995) - DEINSEA 2: 51-66 [ISSN 0923-9308]. Published 30 November 1995.

During 13 visits to Turkey observations were made on the herpetofauna. A total of 88 taxa was recorded. From each taxon the localities, altitudes, dates and the availability of documentation by photographs and/or preserved specimens are listed. Where appropriate, comments are added on ecology, morphology, taxonomy and/or biogeography. For the species *Bufo bufo*, *Mabuya vittata*, *Leptotyphlops macrorhynchus* and *Vipera albizona* a considerable range extension was established by this study.

Herpetologische waarnemingen in Turkije (1987-1995) - Tijdens een 13-tal bezoeken aan Turkije werden observaties gedaan aan de herpetofauna. In totaal werden 88 taxa (soorten en/of ondersoorten) vastgesteld. Per taxon worden achtereenvolgens opgesomd: vindplaatsen, hoogte, datum en de eventueel aanwezige documentatie in de vorm van dia's en/of geconserveerde specimen. Bij sommige taxa is commentaar toegevoegd over ecologie, morfologie, taxonomie en/of biogeografie. Van de soorten *Bufo bufo*, *Mabuya vittata*, *Leptotyphlops macrorhynchus* en *Vipera albizona* werd een aanzienlijke uitbreiding van het verspreidingsgebied vastgesteld.

Türkiye'de yapılan herpetolojik gözlemler (1987-1995) - Türkiye'deki 13 seyahat sırasında herpetofauna gözlemlendi. Toplam olarak 88 taksa (tür ve alt-tür) bulundu. Her tür sırasıyla şöyle bildirildi: bulunış yeri, rakımı, tarihi ve muhtemelen bulunan slaytlar ve/veya muhafaza edilmiş numuneler gibi belgeler. Bazı türlere ekoloji, morfoloji, taksonomi ve/veya biojeografi hakkında açıklama ilave edilmiştir. *Bufo bufo*, *Mabuya vittata*, *Leptotyphlops macrorhynchus* ve *Vipera albizona* türlerinin yerleşim alanlarının genişlediği keşfedilmiştir.

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Keywords: Amphibia, Reptilia, biogeography, Turkey.

INTRODUCTION

Between May 1987 and May 1995 the author made 13 journeys through Turkey, with the country's herpetofauna as the main object of interest. Most of Turkey's territory was covered (Fig. 1), although some areas were more intensively studied while other observations were made more incidentally during shorter stops, causing an irregular and scattered distribution of localities. Fig. 2 gives the accumulated lo-

calities as presented in this paper. This paper aims to contribute to and to update the knowledge of the distribution of Turkish amphibians and reptiles. As the natural habitats of the country have changed a lot during the last decades (through e.g. population growth and urbanisation), also known localities are mentioned to reaffirm earlier observations which are sometimes quite old.

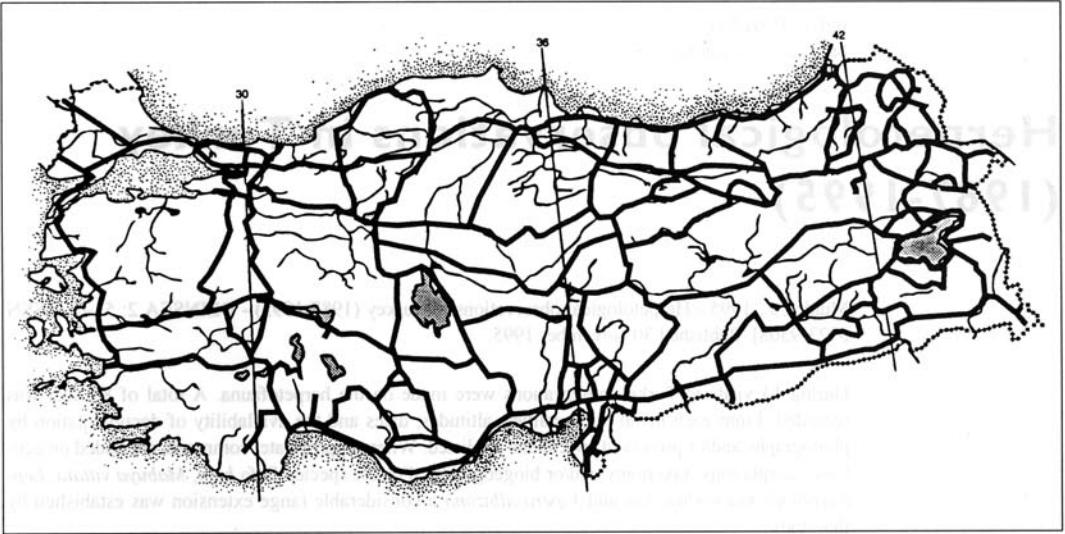


Figure 1 Roads taken by the author during 13 journeys through Turkey [map graphics Jaap van Leeuwen Design]

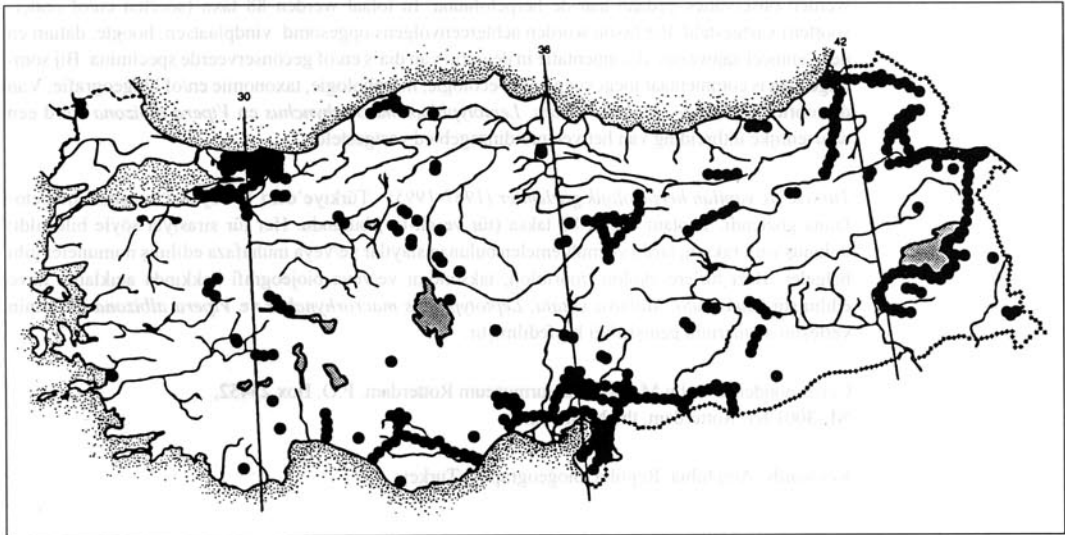


Figure 2 Approximate accumulated localities as listed in this study [map graphics Jaap van Leeuwen Design]

METHODS

The list of species is given in alphabetical order within their 'group' in stead of their systematical order, viz. the Orders Urodela (Caudata), Anura and Chelonia (Testudines) and the Suborders Sauria (Lacertilia), Amphisbaenia and Serpentes. Records are listed per (sub) species, the localities are given in alphabetical order. All data are listed in a standard sequence:

- 1 - locality;
- 2 - larger town/village in the vicinity (between brackets);
- 3 - other geographical locations e.g. mountains, lakes or rivers (underlined);
- 4 - province (in capitals);
- 5 - altitude (in meters above sea level);
- 6 - day, month and year of observation;
- 7 - documentation: colour slides (PC) or preserved specimen (NMR).

The localities are given as precise as can be or is needed. A practical map, often used in this study, is the Euro-Atlas 1:800.000 by RV Reise- und Verkehrsverlag GmbH, Germany, 1990/1991. Where necessary an extra indication is given, for example 'Kozan S' means 'a little south of Kozan', usually following a road. In cases like this the distance between the exact finding-location and the given locality (when not mentioned explicitly), depends on the amount of villages in a given area, but is normally just some kilometers and in any case less than half the distance to a place of comparable size. When villages are so small that they are not mentioned on any normal map, a bigger place is given between brackets. Names of mountains, lakes and rivers are underlined and are given as extra information, or as the primary location when there is no other locality (village or town) in the vicinity. When more localities are given with a dash (-) in between, it is meant that the taxon was observed along this trajectory in vast numbers. The province (in Turkish 'İl') is given in capitals. The altitude of the localities is recorded with an altimeter and/or noted from signs along the roads and placed directly after the province; it can have a deviation of about 50 m. Date and year are being mentioned in the order day-month-year; the month is given in Roman figures. When a record is documented by a photograph, the notation 'PC' followed by a number is given. This Photo Collection (colour slides) is in possession of the author. In case a specimen was collected and preserved the catalogue-number preceded by NMR is given. All material is deposited in the collection of the Natuurmuseum Rotterdam (NMR; Natural History Museum Rotterdam). Comments are given where appropriate. These can either be remarks on the ecology of the (sub)species, indications of taxonomical or biogeographical problems, notes on morphology or comparisons with the literature.

When not mentioned, animals were taken in the hand for determination, or field-identification was straightforward for a trained herpetologist. In addition to the listed records many other observations were made, but due to uncertain determination of sight observations, as well as to problems with identification of specimens within certain groups (e.g. parthenogenetic

Lacerta species), not all of them could be given here. The listed observations from the first trips (1987-1989) are sometimes incomplete because common species were not always registered consequently. In the course of the years the author's knowledge of the species, their distributional ranges and ecological needs increased, which is reflected in the growing amount of data as the years enter the nineties.

RECORDS

AMPHIBIA

URODELA (CAUDATA)

Triturus vittatus ophryticus (Berthold, 1846)

Dalca (S of Kandıra), KOCAELİ, 180 m, 02-V-1992 & 09-VI-1993 & 08-V-1995

Triturus vulgaris kosswigi Freytag, 1955

Dalca (S of Kandıra), KOCAELİ, 180 m, 02-V-1992 (sight observation)

ANURA

Bufo bufo (Linnaeus, 1758)

Beşkonak 4 km N, ANTALYA, 200 m, 30-VIII-1994, PC 12T002-12T007

Comment: This surprising locality is far from the known range in Turkey, which is NW and W Anatolia (Başoğlu & Özeti 1973). The length of this rather large specimen was 13 cm. The width of the mouth 4.8 cm. It was apparently a female. The specimen was found late in the evening immediately along the Köprü İrmak. Gebhart et al. (1990) mentioned this species casually from Çaltepe (25 km N of Beşkonak) in their article concerning *Mertensiella luschani*.

Bufo verrucosissimus (Pallas, 1814)

[formerly *Bufo bufo verrucosissimus* (Pallas, 1814)]
Hopa NE, ARTVİN, 200 m, 22-V-1987, PC T328 & T329

Bufo viridis Laurenti, 1768

Civan, ARTVİN, 06-V-1988; Çermik S, DİYAR-BAKIR, 850 m, 26-V-1993; Gönnerme, VAN, 2000 m, 28-V-1993; Hadim, KONYA, 1600 m, 18-V-1993, PC 11T011-016; Iğdır S (NW slope of Büyük Ağrı Dağı), KARS (now IĞDIR), 1500 m, 11-V-1987,

