

central and west Primorsky Territory and south Khabarovsk Territory. In 1996-2003 employees of environment organizations confiscated few thousands of frogs from poachers. For this period on custom posts there has held up 3720 living individuals of frogs, 129 kg dried frogs, and 55 kg fat like substance of *Rana dybowskii*. In December 2002 there were happened unprecedented event, when Chinese poachers made poisoning on some rivers of Khasan District, Primorye. *Pelodiscus sinensis* becomes a subject of large scale illegal collecting. Among 13 districts of Primorsky Territory, where soft-shelled turtles habitat now, it occurs in 11 districts. For last 8 years custom officers confiscated 215 individuals of turtles.

It is necessary to use effective laws for the save of amphibians and reptiles of Russian Far East Region.

Key words: Russian Far East, China, illegal trade, *Rana dybowskii*, *Pelodiscus sinensis*

A TRANSGRESSION ZONE OF TWO *Podarcis sicula* TYPES (LACERTIDAE) IN ISTRIA (CROATIA) (P)

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Based on cytochrome-b sequences there are two different haplotype forms among the Italian Wall Lizard, *Podarcis sicula campestris*, within the Adriatic part of its area. On the Dalmatian islands only the «Adriatic» form occurs while in north-eastern Italy the «Veneto» form is found. We were able to discriminate between the two forms by an additional feature, the presence («Adria» type) or absence («Veneto» type) of a nuclear copy of a part of the mitochondrial DNA (numt). In western Istria and on the off-shore islands both forms occur. On the islands more distant from the mainland exclusively the «Veneto» type occurs whereas on the islands closer to the coast a mixture or only the «Adria» type was found. In Istria itself both forms intergrade. The pattern of both features can be interpreted by two postglacial immigration waves, the first one from the west by the Veneto type at the time when all islands were still connected with the mainland and the second one by the «Adria» type later, probably by an over-water colonisation from the south.

Key words: *Podarcis sicula*, Istria, postglacial immigration, hybridisation, cyt-b, numt

THE DISTRIBUTION, BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY OF THE SOUTHERN CRESTED NEWT, *Triturus karelinii* IN DAGESTAN (P)

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The distribution, biology and ecology of *Triturus karelinii* were studied in 1994-2002 on the foothills of Dagestan. We investigated various foothill reservoirs up to the altitude of 1500 m above sea level. The crested newt is distributed in the foothills. They occupy biotopes in forest-steep and forest zones within the range of altitudes from 500 to 1200 m above sea level. These salamanders prefer comparatively dry hornbeam forests and subalpine meadows at the upper margin of the forest belt. The newts hibernate from late November to early March. In warm weather they can be active also in February. The places of hibernation are ponds and small lakes. When these reservoirs dry up the hibernation takes place in terrestrial shelters. The breeding period of the newts begins at the end of February or the early March. Newts breed in temporary and perennial reservoirs. The eggs deposition take place in the second half of April till the first half of June. Adult newts begin to leave the breeding sites in the first of June. The young of the current year appear on the surface at the end of August and at the beginning of September. Over the period of our investigations, we observed decrease of the newts in Dagestan. The crested newt has many