

A field observation of common buzzard predated on common toad

Terensko opažanje predacije običnog škanjca na sneđu krastaču

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Figure 1. Skinned toad in the breeding pond near Đelekovec
Slika 1. Koža smeđe krastače na mrijestilištu u blizini Đelekovca

Common toad *Bufo bufo* (Linnaeus, 1758), similarly to many species of bufonid family, has parotoid glands that release a secretion that is toxic to many predators and serve as defence mechanism (WILBER, CARTOLL, 1940, TRONCHET, 1952, TOLEDO, JARED, 1995). In that context, predation on bufonid frogs is not very common, and it mostly happens under specific conditions (e.g. during the breeding season; OLSON, 1989, SLATER, 2002). We observed common buzzard *Buteo buteo* (Linnaeus, 1758)

on 16th March 2008 in the dusk, skinning the common toads that were injured in the traffic during their spring migration to the breeding site, on the county road from Koprivnica to Đelekovec. On the next morning, in the nearby pond which is the main breeding site of *Bufo bufo* in this area, we observed completely skinned individual of common toad, which was skinned and eaten by common buzzard. The same predation pattern was also observed on the road near the gravel excavation pit Gabajeva Greda. It seems that this pattern is here even more common due to lower frequency of traffic. Skinning of common toads was previously reported by Eurasian otter *Lutra lutra* (Linnaeus, 1758) (SLATER, 2002), while the same pattern has also been reported for other bufonid frogs (e.g. *B. boreas* predated by *Corvus corax*; OLSON, 1989).

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