

**First record of the *erythronotus* colouration in a female individual *Lacerta agilis*
(Laurenti, 1768) in Croatia**

**Prvi nalaz *erythronotus* mutacije kod ženske jedinke *Lacerta agilis* (Laurenti, 1768) u
Hrvatskoj**

IGOR VILAJ, PAULA DVORSKI

Croatian Herpetological Society – Hyla, Lipovac I 7, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia,

*Corresponding author: vilaj22@gmail.com

The Sand Lizard (*Lacerta agilis* Laurenti, 1768) is a small to medium sized lizard, reaching about 18 cm total length (Edgar & Bird 2005). Two subspecies of the Sand Lizard occur in Croatia. *Lacerta agilis argus* Laurenti, 1768, is distributed in the Pannonian lowland and *Lacerta agilis bosnica* Scheriber, 1912 is in southern Croatia (except the Mediterranean coast and all Adriatic islands) (Bischoff 1988; Karaman 1921; Kalayabina et al. 2001; Edgar & Bird 2005; Jelić, 2010).

There are many variations in colour and pattern across the range of this species (Edgar & Bird, 2005). The *erythronotus* form (Figure 1.) is manifested by a specific dorsal colouration consisting of a reddish stripe as opposed to the typical green or brown colouration with a dark brown stripe (Bischoff 1988) (Fig. 2). It is not unusual, and occurs in many Sand Lizard populations across many countries (Bischoff 1988; Karaman 1921, Vogrin 1999, Borczyk, 2001, Edgar & Bird 2005, Strugariu et al. 2006, Schweiger 2008, Jelić 2010, Burić & Jelić 2011) and it is the most common colour anomaly in some countries (Borczyk 2001).

A female *L. a. argus erythronotus* colouration morph (with one postnasal and two

loreal scales as it typical for the *argus* subspecies as in Bischoff 1988) was found during a herpetological fieldtrip on 30 March, 2014 in a small village called Petrijanec in Varaždin County, Croatia (X:5592051, Y: 5133845). It was found on the forest edge surrounded by *Rubus sp.* and *Quercus robur*, at 190 m above sea level. This is the first record of *erythronotus* coloration morph in a female Sand Lizard in Croatia and the second record for the morph in the country. Jelić (2010) found a male of the *erythronotus* colouration morph in the vicinity of Donji Miholjac.

REFERENCES:

- Bischoff, W. (1988): Zur Verbreitung und Systematik der Zauneidechse, *Lacerta agilis* Linnaeus, 1758. Mertensiella 1: 11-30.
- Borczyk, B. (2001): The effects of flood on an isolated population of Sand lizards (*Lacerta agilis* L.) in Wrocław (SW Poland). Herpetological Bulletin 2011 (78): 28-30.
- Burić, I. & Jelić, D. (2011): Record of *Lacerta agilis bosnica* (Linnaeus, 1758) *erythronotus* coloration morph from Zelengora mountain, Bosnia and Herzegovina. HYL A – herpetološki bilten 2011 (2): 23-24.
- Edgar, P. & Bird, D.R. (2005): Action Plan for the Conservation of the Sand Lizard (*Lacerta agilis*) in Northwest Europe. Convention on the

conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats, Strasbourg, 11 October 2005.

Jelić, D. (2010): First record of the *erythronotus* coloration morph in *Lacerta agilis argus* Laurenti, 1768 from Croatia. *Natura Croatica* 19 (2): 459-462.

Kalayabina, S. A., Milto, K.D., Ananjeva, N.B., Legal, L., Joger, U. & Wink, M. (2001): Phylogeography and systematics of *Lacerta agilis* based on mitochondrial cytochrome b gene sequences: first results. *Russian Journal of Herpetology* 8 (2): 149-158.

Schweiger, M. (2008): First record of the *erythronotus* mutation in *Lacerta agilis* cf. *bosnica* Schreiber, 1912. *Herpetozoa* 20 (3/4): 174.

Strugariu, A., Sahlean, T.C., Volosciuc – Hutuleac, M.V., Puscasu, C.M. (2006): Preliminary data regarding the distribution of reptilian fauna in Suceava County (Romania). *North - Western Journal of Zoology* 2 (1): 39-43.

Vogrin, N. (1999): First data on the occurrence of *Lacerta agilis* »*erythronotus*« in Slovenia. *Boletín de la Asociación Herpetológica Española* 10: 28-29.



Figure 1. Female Sand Lizard with *erythronotus* coloration from Petrijanec, Croatia.

Slika 1. Ženka livadne gušerice s *erythronotus* tipom obojenja iz Petrijanca, Hrvatska.



Figure 2. The typical female coloration morph from Petrijanec, Croatia.

Slika 2. Normalno obojena ženka iz Petrijanca, Hrvatska.