



A tentative species list of the European herpetofauna (Amphibia and Reptilia) — an update

JEROEN SPEYBROECK^{1,4}, WOUTER BEUKEMA² & PIERRE-ANDRÉ CROCHET³

¹Research Institute for Nature and Forest, Kliniekstraat 25, B-1070 Brussels, Belgium

²Department of Animal Management, University of Applied Science van Hall-Larenstein, Agora 1, NL-8934 CJ Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. E-mail: wouter.beukema@wur.nl; wouter_beukema@hotmail.com

³CNRS-UMR 5175 Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive, 1919, Route de Mende, F-34293 Montpellier cedex 5, France
E-mail: pierre-andre.crochet@cefe.cnrs.fr

⁴Corresponding author. E-mail: jeroen.speybroeck@inbo.be; jeroenspeybroeck@hotmail.com

Abstract

Research on the taxonomy of European amphibians and reptiles has increased noticeably over the last few decades, indicating the need for recognition of new species and the cancellation of others. This paper provides a critical review of recent changes and draws up a tentative species list.

Key words: amphibians, reptiles, taxonomy, nomenclature, review, Europe

Introduction

The steady accumulation of European herpetological literature during the 18th and 19th century permitted the early compilation of species lists, which initially comprised mostly nations and often did not combine reptiles and amphibians (e.g. Bonaparte 1840; Bocage 1863; Böttger 1869; de Betta 1874; Camerano 1884). Schreiber (1875) was the first to assemble a list of both reptiles and amphibians of Europe (including western Russia) which recorded 97 species. The rise of intensified herpetological research in Europe during the 20th century, eventually combined with systematic studies based on phylogenetic relations, created the need for multiple revisions of the European herpetofauna list. While Mertens and Müller (1928) and Mertens and Wermuth (1960) may have well served as the initial contemporary baseline, revisions were given by Arnold *et al.* (1978), Engelmann *et al.* (1993), Dubois (1998) and Arnold and Ovenden (2002). Recent taxonomical updates were given by e.g. Danflous *et al.* (2004) and Crochet and Dubois (2004). A tentative updated overview of European amphibian and reptile taxonomy was provided by Speybroeck and Crochet (2007). In the meantime, research activities have continued intensively, feeding the need for this new update. Our emphasis is on species and higher level changes, dealing with subspecific taxonomy only in a limited number of cases of special interest.

We keep to the same —subjectively— delimited geographical area as Speybroeck and Crochet (2007): geographic Europe without former Soviet republics. As a consequence, species occurring only on Asiatic or African islands politically belonging to European countries are omitted. These islands include among others the Greek isles east of the mid-Aegean trench. For instance, Karpathos is considered Europe, while Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Rhodes, Symi, among others (with numerous Anatolian fauna elements like *Anatololacerta* spp., *Trachylepis aurata*, *Blanus strauchi*) are considered to be Asian islands. The Canary Islands, Azores, Selvagens, Madeira, Alborán and Lampedusa, Pantelleria and nearby islets are geographically considered as parts of the African continent.

Issues that were discussed by Speybroeck and Crochet (2007) and which are not reassessed or elaborated any further below, remain as such, pending further research. Authorship and year for family, genus and