

An Introduction to: Reptiles & Amphibians of the Greek Islands

By David Buttle

Each summer, thousands of people will enjoy an annual holiday in one of the sun-drenched Mediterranean countries. An ever-increasing number will choose to visit Greece, most likely one of the islands, with travel agents offering packages ranging from resorts on Corfu, renowned (or notorious) for their lively night life, to bird-watching holi-

and unable to undertake extensive field trips, will wish to know what species are likely to be seen on the various islands. Most will not have access to the specialist literature published in numerous, often obscure journals, and complete lists of species occurring on individual islands are not given in general field guides. This arti-



Starred agama, *Agama stellio*. A frequent sight on dry-stone walls of many Greek islands. C Newman.

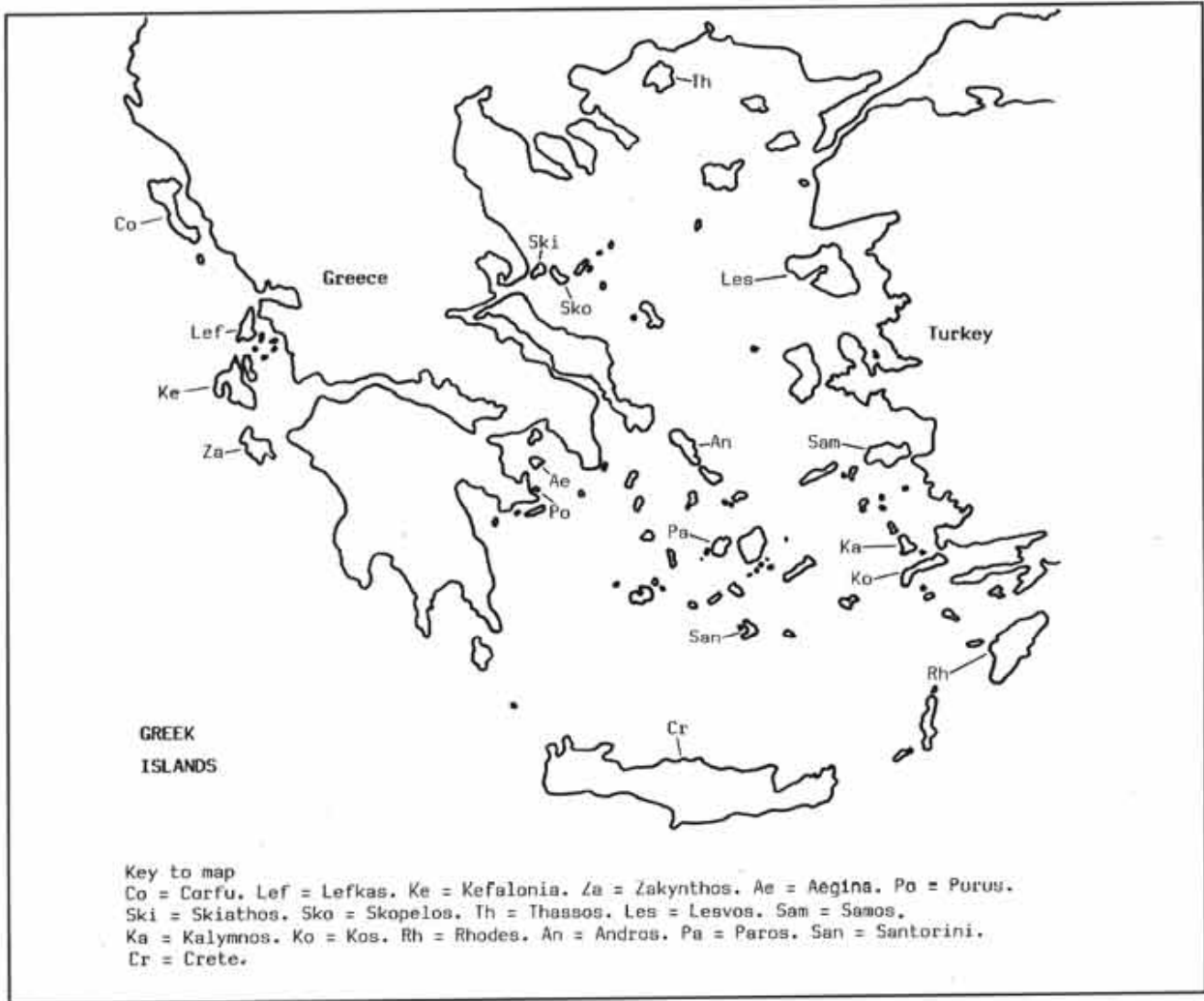
days on Lesbos. Others will be drawn by peaceful beaches or the wealth of classical historical sites. A minority attraction, although not perhaps to readers of this magazine, and not featured in the glossy brochures, is the rich and varied herpetofauna present in this part of Europe.

Many people with an interest in reptiles and amphibians, perhaps with families to consider

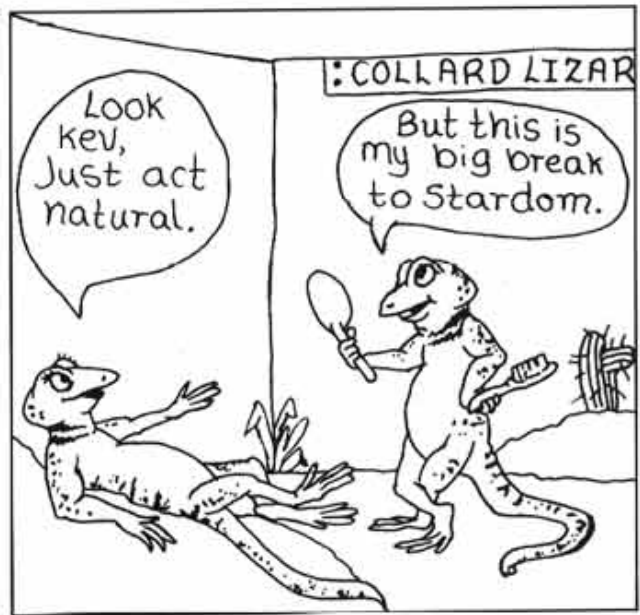
and unable to undertake extensive field trips, will wish to know what species are likely to be seen on the various islands. Most will not have access to the specialist literature published in numerous, often obscure journals, and complete lists of species occurring on individual islands are not given in general field guides. This arti-

Corfu (Ionian)

In terms of diversity, the richest of the



The Reptile House



islands, with no less than 33 reptile and amphibian species present. The Ionians are green and fertile with rich and varied habitats, a result of heavy winter rainfall. Though dry in summer, Corfu receives 125 cm a year, twice as much as London! Not surprisingly several amphibian species are present, most evident being marsh frogs *Rana ridibunda* and Epirus frogs *R. epirotica*. Confusingly, the latter appears no different from *ridibunda*, with which it is often sympatric and interbreeds, and is said to be identifiable by its distinct 'rattling' call. The agile frog *R. dalmatina*, with its long hind legs is well named and can be found in damp woodland areas. Commonly seen, often active after dark even near human habitation, is the green toad *Bufo viridis*. The familiar common toad *Bufo bufo* is also present, here often growing to around 15 cm. Perhaps the most attractive amphibian is the common tree frog *Hyla arborea*, which despite its name is usually found in low bushes and tall grasses rather than up trees.

Two newts are also found on Corfu, the warty newt, regarded as *Triturus karelinii* (former subspecies of *T. cristatus*) and the smooth newt (*T. vulgaris*). With plenty of freshwater habitats there is much to occupy the amphibian enthusiast.

Lizards are the most commonly encountered reptiles. At night Turkish geckos *Hemidactylus turcicus* may be seen on the walls of the buildings and

during the day the diurnally active lacertids, including both the green and Balkan green lizards (*Lacerta viridis* & *L. trilineata*) are prominent. Unless one is walking very quietly, these are usually heard crashing through the undergrowth rather than seen. Where these closely related species occur together, *L. viridis* appears to be dominant with *L. trilineata* 'pushed out' into drier habitats than those usually occupied.

Also very common is *Podarcis taurica*, the somewhat misnamed Balkan wall lizard, which is not found on walls but is a ground-dweller in grassy areas. The Dalmatian Algyroides *Algyroides nigropunctatus* is a very attractive small lizard, males having bright red bellies and brilliant blue throats, which is found in varying habitats from dry-stone walls to scrub and bushes. Only one skink, the diminutive snake-eyed skink *Ablepharus kitaibelii*, is known and this species is usually seen in shady ground vegetation. An unusual species for the region is the starred agama *Agama stellio* but this appears to be localised and not very common. More frequently seen is the European glass lizard *Ophisaurus apodus*, of which despite its large size, I have never known a captured specimen to bite, although it may spin its body wildly, spraying faeces from its vent. The slow worm *Anguis fragilis* also occurs.

Dominating the island's reptile life, although not so easily seen, are the snakes, with 13 species recorded - more

than any other Greek island. Three rat-snakes, including a Greek rarity - the Aesculapian snake *Elaphe longissima* and the beautiful leopard ratsnake *E. situla* may be found. The four-lined snake *Elaphe quatorlineata* is also fairly common on Corfu and is a gentle giant of up to two metres, which rarely bites even when first caught.

Three whipsnakes are also present, most common being the Balkan (*Coluber gemonensis*) but also occurring, although rare, on Corfu is the large whip snake *C. jugularis*. This is unusual as it rarely occurs on the same island as the Balkan. Both of the preceding species are fast-moving, active and difficult to observe but even more so is the last species - the slender Dahl's whip snake *C. najadum*, which shoots off at such a speed that it may leave the observer wondering if they actually saw a snake at all!

Around lakes and streams striped grass snakes *Natrix natrix* are common, as is the dice snake *N. tessellata*. Also very common is the Montpelier snake *Malpolon monspessulanus*, a large and aggressive rear-fanged species. A more docile opisthognathous species is the smaller, nocturnal cat snake *Telescopus fallax*. Turning rocks may result in finding the worm-like blind snake *Typhlops vermicularis* and in dry areas, if extremely lucky, this method may even reveal the sand boa *Eryx jaculus*. Corfu's only dangerous snake is the nose-horned viper

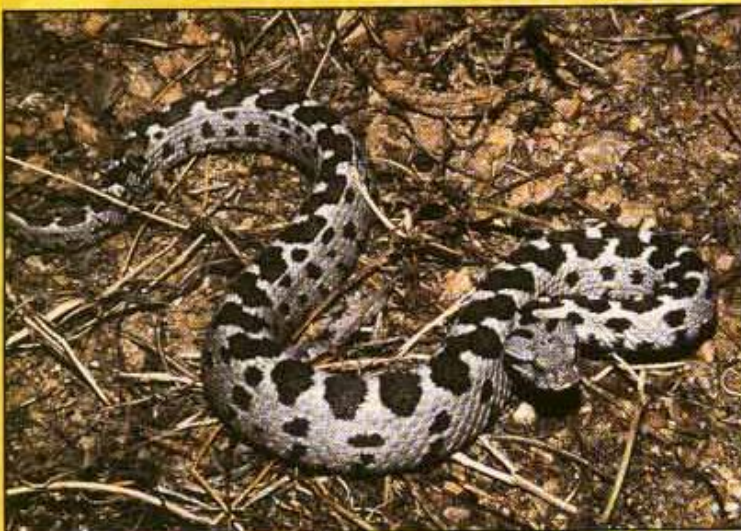
By Helen Neave





Plates:

Above: Montpellier snake *Malpolon monspessulanus*, one of the most common of the snakes of Greece.
David Buttle.



Left: Male Ottoman viper *Vipera xanthina*, present on many eastern Aegean islands.
David Buttle.

Below left: Large whip snake *Coluber j. jugularis*, most common of the Dodecanese snakes.
David Buttle.



Plates - facing page:

Bottom: *Blanus strauchi*, an amphisbaenid (or worm lizard). This species lives underground and is superbly adapted for its subterranean existence. The eyes are tiny, the head small and in many ways it resembles an earthworm. Occurs on Samos, Kos & Rhodes.
C. Newman.

Vipera ammodytes, which is not uncommon in rocky scrub areas.

Fortunately the Hermann's tortoise *Testudo hermanni* is still a familiar sight and, wherever there is fresh water both stripe-necked and European pond terrapins *Mauremys caspica* and *Emys orbicularis* occur in large numbers.

Lefkas, Kefalonia, Zakynthos (Ionian)

These are the more southerly of the Ionian islands, similar to Corfu regarding habitats and herpetofauna and although not quite as rich as the former they still possess great variety with Lefkas having 21 species present, Kefalonia 25 and Zakynthos 19. Species which occur on Corfu but have not yet been recorded on these islands are: *Triturus karelenii*, *Rana epeirotica*, *Agama stellio*, *Lacerta viridis*, *Eryx jacularis*, *Coluber najadum*, *Elaphe longissima* and *Mauremys caspica*.

Conversely these islands have a few species not found on Corfu. The Moorish gecko *Tarentola mauretana*, which may be seen basking even during daylight hours, is thought to have been introduced to Kefalonia and Zakynthos from north Africa. Less common, but also diurnally active is Kotschy's gecko *Cyrtodactylus kotschy*, which occurs on the same islands. This species lacks toe-pads and inhabits dry-stone walls, behaving in a similar manner to a wall lizard. The slow worms of Kefalonia and Zakynthos have recently been given distinct specific status - *Anguis cephalonicus*, with differences from *A. fragilis* including a discontinuous dark vertebral line (continuous in *A. fragilis*). Also present on these three islands but not on Corfu is the Greek Algyroides *A. moreoticus*, a drab looking species compared to *A. nigropunctatus*, with which it



B J HERP SUPPLIES

RIVENDELL
PIDDLTRENTHIDE
DORCHESTER
DORSET
DT2 7QX

Tel: 01300 348738 Fax: 01300 348211

FOR THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE SELECTION OF CAPTIVE-BRED REPTILES, ACCESSORIES, LITERATURE AND GIFTS IN THE UK, CALL NOW FOR OUR FREE 50+ PAGE CATALOGUE CONTAINING MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERS & MULTI-PURCHASE SAVINGS THAT YOU **JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS**. FROM CRICKETS TO CORN SNAKES, GECKOS TO GREEN TREE PYTHONS, FROGS TO FRILLED DRAGONS, TOADS TO TARANTULAS. MOST ACCESSORIES, LITERATURE AND GIFTS CAN BE DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR AT NO EXTRA COST, THE PRICE YOU SEE IS THE PRICE YOU PAY. DON'T HESITATE, CALL OR FAX NOW FOR YOUR FREE CATALOGUE



may be sympatric although often in drier habitats than those normally favoured.

Mention should also be made of the loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*, which has its most important European nesting sites on the beaches of Zakynthos. This species has undoubtedly suffered greatly from the effects of tourism.

Aegina, Poros (Argo-Saronic)

Aegina lies in the gulf between Athens and the N.E. Peloponnese and is the most fertile of the Argo-Saronic group. Poros barely qualifies as an island, being separated from the N.E. Peloponnese by a mere 400 metre channel. It is thickly wooded, mainly with pines. Aegina has 10 species of herptile and Poros 11, with amphibians poorly represented (only *Bufo bufo* has been found on Aegina and *B. viridis* & *R. ridibunda* on Poros). It is likely

that the green toad also occurs on Aegina, but is unrecorded.

Two geckos, *Hemidactylus turcicus* and *Cyrtodactylus kotschy* are found on both islands, as is the skink *A. kitaibelii*, which is reported to be abundant. A further skink, the robust and attractive ocellated skink *Chalcides ocellatus* also inhabits both islands and is found in variable habitats but is relatively uncommon. Most small lacertids are absent, but *L. trilineata* is common on both islands.

Coluber najadum and *Elaphe situla* are recorded on both islands, the former being the most common snake. Finding the secretive leopard snake is never easy; scouring dry-stone walls in agricultural areas during early morning/late afternoon may be productive. *Malpolon monspessulanus* can be found on Poros and the aggressive *C. gemonensis* inhabits Aegina. Extremely rare on Aegina (one sighting on record) is *C. jugularis* and the venomous *Vipera ammodytes* has yet to be found on any Argo-Saronic island.

Greece's largest tortoise, the marginated tortoise *Testudo marginata* is abundant on Poros. This species is identifiable by its flared carapace and the lack of spurs on its thighs.

Skiathos, Skopelos (Sporades)

These islands offer an opportunity for visitors to make a contribution to the known distribution of Greek species as this group is surely under-recorded, having been subject to comparatively little research. These islands are situated to the east of the central mainland and

are hilly and covered extensively with pine. Skopelos has 8 known species (2 amphibians, 4 lizards & 2 snakes) and Skiathos has just 5 (2 lizards and 3 snakes) (see appendix for full list of species present).

Thassos (N.E. Aegean)

Lying just a km off the north-east Greek mainland, this large fertile island has varied habitats including pine-covered mountain slopes and 22 herptile species have been recorded. The widespread *B. viridis*, *Hyla arborea* and *Rana ridibunda* are present, as well as the stream frog *Rana graeca*, which inhabits cool running streams. Most common lizards are *Lacerta viridis* and *Ophisaurus apodus* and *Chalcides occellatus* has been recorded recently although, unlike other Thassos species, it is not known on the nearby mainland. Interesting is the occurrence of the snake-eyed lizard *Ophisops elegans*, which has a limited distribution in Europe and is not particularly common on Thassos. As its name suggests this species does not have eyelids, a feature shared with *A. kitaibellii*, which has not been recorded on Thassos and is fairly scarce in north-east Greece.

Seven widespread Greek snakes, including *Vipera ammodytes* are present, with perhaps the most common being *Malpolon monspessulanus*. Devastating forest fires have hit the island in recent years and these may have had a detrimental effect on herptile numbers, especially of such species as *Testudo graeca*, previously reported to be numerous. A single specimen of *T. marginata* has been recorded. See appendix for full species list.

Lesvos (N.E. Aegean)

This very large island has habitats ranging from rocky and arid to coastal marshes renowned for their bird life, pine-covered mountain slopes and vast olive groves. Altogether 21 herptile species are recorded, with *Rana ridibunda* and *Mauremys caspica* especially numerous in wetlands and streams.

None of the lizard species can be described as notably abundant, most frequently seen being *O. elegans*, although this lizard occurs in greater numbers on the smaller eastern Aegean islands. *Agama stellio*, which is abundant on the islands further south, is near the northern limits of its range on Lesvos and the only green lizard is *L. triineata*, *L. viridis* not being recorded on Lesvos or any of the more southerly east Aegean islands.

The most common snake appears to be *Coluber jugularis* (ssp. *caspicus*), which is found on most of the east Aegean islands. Two mainly Turkish snake species can be found on Lesvos, the Asia Minor dwarf snake *Eirenis modestus* and the Ottoman viper *Vipera xanthina*. *E. modestus* is a small 9 to 45 cm) slender colubrid, mainly diurnal, feeding mostly on insects and the occasional small lizard. Dorsally uniform grey to light-brown, some are finely spotted anteriorly, with distinct, often m-shaped, dark head markings. Often found hiding under rocks, the Ottoman viper inhabits rocky areas with good vegetation cover, often in cultivated areas or near water. The largest known examples are found in this part of its range, particularly on nearby Chios, and 120 cm specimens are not unusual. Aggressive when threatened, this is potentially a very dangerous snake, well capable of causing human fatalities. Fortunately, bites seem fairly rare, in part due to its secretive lifestyle as during the summer this viper is mainly nocturnal and not easy to find. See appendix for full list of species present.

Samos (N.E. Aegean)

Like Corfu in the Ionian, Samos is outstanding among the islands of the east Aegean and is, like Lesvos, wetter and greener than the Dodecanese islands, having a strong Asiatic influence from nearby Turkey on its fauna. It is a large island with varied habitats and mountains rising to 1440 metres and has the same amphibians as Lesvos and a similar, if slightly richer, reptile life including several Greek rarities. There is a total of 27 herptile species present.

Most notable among those species with a limited range in Greece is the Mediterranean Chamaeleon *Chamaeleo chamaeleon*. Samos has also had some serious forest fires recently and this may well have reduced the population of this fascinating lizard. Other comparative rarities include the ringed amphisbaenian (*Bianus strauchi*), a fossorial animal which may be found under rocks, especially following rain. Another mainly Asiatic species is *Mabuya aurata*, a medium-sized skink of around 10 cm SVL, olive-grey with black bars on dorsum and flanks, found in rocky habitats. Apart from the almost ubiquitous (on eastern islands) *O. elegans*, a further small lacertid *L. anatolica* (formerly *L. danfordi*) also occurs. This differs from the snake-eyed lizard in being a climbing rather than ground-dwelling species and is more robust in appearance with the dorsolateral stripes being less prominent or absent.

Samos has a varied snake fauna with ten species being recorded most common of which (as on many eastern islands) is *Coluber jugularis* (ssp. *caspicus*). A recently recorded species here is *Eryx jaculus*.



c/o PEGASUS BIRDS LTD
LITTLE WARLEY HALL LANE
WEST HORNDON, NEAR BRENTWOOD
ESSEX, CM13 3EN, ENGLAND
Tel: 0277 811779 Fax: 0277 812013

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 10am to 5pm

Come and Visit the Largest Reptile House in the South. All of our Stock is Beautifully Displayed to the Public. We supply Snakes, Toads, Spiders, Iguanas, Lizards, Live and Frozen Foods, Plus all The Accessories you Require - Too much to list.
TRADE WELCOME
Friendly Service and FREE Advice

Mail Order/ACCESS/VISA/MASTERCARD Welcome

Available soon

'AN INTRODUCTION TO BUYING & KEEPING SNAKES'



Britain's first professionally produced
video about snakes.

Written and Presented
by
MARK O'SHEA



UK & Overseas Enquiries Invited from trade and retailers

To SCIMITAR FILM PRODUCTIONS
Blagdon, Avon. BS18 6RB
Telephone +44 (0) 1761 463313

Kos, Kalymnos (Dodecanese)

Though islands of this group are often described as hilly, dry and fairly barren there is often a variety of habitats to be explored, especially on larger islands. Kalymnos is mountainous with fertile valleys of pines, eucalyptus and citrus groves. Kos, as expected on an island of this size, has variable habitats ranging from mountains to fertile plains. Kos has 20 herpetile species and Kalymnos has 12 species recorded, although it was until recently little known herpetologically and further investigation could result in other species being recorded.

Compared to the N.E. Aegean, *Agama stellio* is abundant in these islands and both islands have 'eastern specialities' such as *O. elegans*, *V. xanthina*, *B. strauchi* present on Kos, and *E. modestus* on Kalymnos. A further, mainly Turkish species, occurring on both islands is Reuss' whip snake *Coluber nummifer*, an extremely variable snake with several colour morphs known, being grey with dark dorsal blotches, uniform grey or light brown with dark brown blotches. The dorsal markings, if present, may also form a zigzag pattern and this fairly heavy-bodied, large (up to around 150 cm) colubrid has, as a result, been confused with the Ottoman viper. The snake is fairly slow-moving and the bites, although not venomous, can result in painful swelling. They are often found in cultivated areas near dry-stone walls.

Common in much of Greece, *Malpolon monspessulanus*, recorded on Kos, is scarce in this region. On Kalymnos some Dahl's whip snakes are melanistic and have now been given sub specific status *C. najadum kalymnensis*. Though tor-

toises are generally sparse in the Dodecanese, *T. graeca* is common on Kos hill-sides.

Rhodes (Dodecanese)

Rhodes is the largest of this group and has very diverse habitats, with 22-23 species recorded, including those of Turkish origin. Abundant, also known as the 'Rhodes Dragon' is *Agama stellio*. Lizards previously known as *Lacerta danfordi* on Rhodes are now classified as *L. oertzeni* (Eiselt & Schmidtler), though *Ophisops elegans* is more commonly seen. Rhodes is the only island where both *Mabuya aurata* and *Chalcides ocellatus* occur, occupying slightly different niches.

Surprisingly, in view of its presence on nearby islands, the Ottoman viper has not been found on Rhodes, where the most frequently seen snake is *Coluber jugularis*. Here, as on all the Dodecanese, the subspecies *jugularis* occurs here and this differs from *C. j. caspius* in that they are melanistic rather than greyish-brown/olive. There is also a geographic difference in size attained, *jugularis* to around 160 cm, where *caspius* in the north of its range may reach in excess of 250 cm, making it one of Europe's longest snakes. Some authorities refer to these forms as full species, but most now regard them as subspecies, while still others doubt they are even separable at this level.

Other notable reptiles present include *Ophisaurus apodus*, *Blanus strauchi*, *Lacerta trilineata*, *Typhlops vermicularis*, *Coluber nummifer* and *Elaphe situla*.

Andros (Cyclades)

Most of the Cyclades can de-

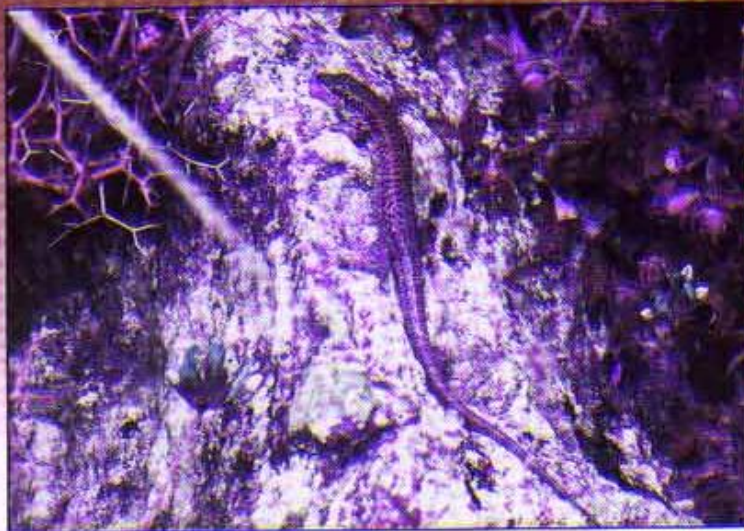
scribed as dry and barren but Andros, the most northerly of the group, is an exception, being green and relatively fertile. Fifteen species of herpetile are known, though this island is certainly under-recorded, for example though *Bufo bufo* is recorded (only Cycladean record), *B. viridis* is not mentioned on lists, though almost certain to be present. Erhard's wall lizard *Podarcis erhardii* is found on Andros, as it is on most of the Cyclades, with numerous subspecies having been described. *L. trilineata* is present, but its close relative *L. viridis* is absent, as it is on all of this island group.

Coluber jugularis is reported to be common and *Elaphe quatuorlineata* is also present, although it is fairly unusual for these species to occur together on the same island. Widespread in Greece, but absent from all the Cyclades including Andros is *M. monspessulanus*. No tortoises have been recorded and they are generally rare in the Cyclades, having been found on just a few islands, many of these records resulting from the introduced animals.

Paros, Santorini (Cyclades)

Paros is more typically Cycladean, with dry phrygana covered hillsides, though still more fertile than most of its neighbours, and having 14 species recorded. Fresh water streams and pools are present, supporting *R. ridibunda*, but *M. caspica*, present on some Cyclades, appears absent. Common is *A. stellio*, found on several Cyclades islands. Widespread in this group, present on Paros, are *H. turcicus*, *A. kitaibelii*, and especially *C. kotschy* which is the most abundant reptile on many of these islands. Very unusual on Paros is the absence of wall lizards which are a familiar sight on most of the Cyclades. *L. trilineata* present. Widespread Cycladean snakes, found on Paros, include *E. jaculus*, *E. quatuorlineata* (ssp. *muenteni*) which is smaller and aggressive compared to the nominate form, *E. situla*, *T. fallax* and *V. ammodytes*, the latter much smaller than mainland specimens.

Santorini is a volcanic island, devastated by a large eruption and massive tidal waves around 1500 BC., the island having erupted many times since. Consequently the island consists mainly of volcanic ash, and though natural vegetation is sparse, the volcanic earth is fertile supporting cultivation especially vines. Not surprisingly, few species have survived here and only five are definitely present. One species extremely common is *P. erhardii*, others recorded include *H. turcicus* and *C. kotschy*, *T. fallax*, common on several of the Cyclades occurs, here having pale markings (ssp. *pallidus*). *E.*



Plates:

Top left: The dice snake *Natrix tessellata* is a very at

Centre left: Erhard's wall lizard *Podarcis erhardii* is

Bottom left: The sand boa *Eryx jaculus* is the only G

Bottom centre: The green lizard *Lacerta viridis* is co

Top right: Nose-horned viper *Vipera ammodytes*. Co
possibly the most dangerous of any common Europe

Centre right: The European pond terrapin *Emys orbil*

Bottom right: The Mediterranean chameleon *Chamele*
David Buttle.



aquatic species. C. Newman.

abundant on many of the Cyclades. D. Buttle.

Greek snake of the family *Boidae*. D. Buttle.

common on several northern Greek islands. D. Buttle.

considered a highly venomous species, with the bite
of a viper. Corfu's only dangerous snake. C. Newman.

regularis occurs in large numbers on Corfu. D. Buttle.

leleo chaemaeleo, is a rare species in Greece.



ENFIELD REPTILE CENTRE

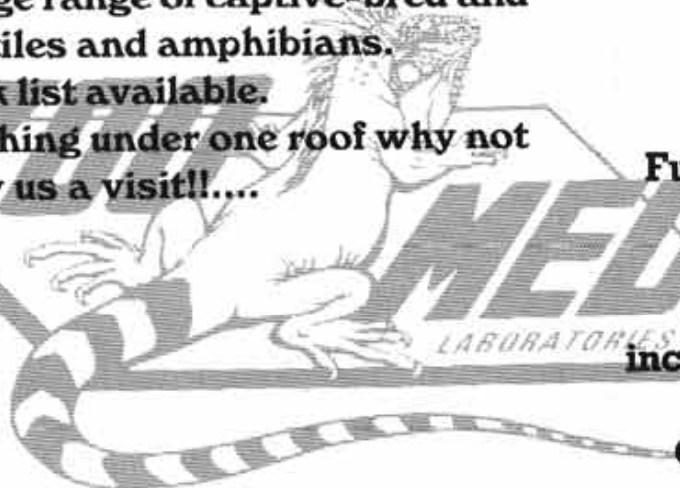


Extensive range of equipment and care products, large range of captive-bred and imported reptiles and amphibians.

Monthly stock list available.

So for every thing under one roof why not come and pay us a visit!!....

We want
your surplus
Captive-bred
Animals.....



Full selection of
reptile and
amphibian
livefoods -
including aquatic
livefoods.
Competitive
prices!

TRADE SUPPLIED cash & carry by appointment

Browns Garden Centre
Theobalds Park Road
Crews Hill
Enfield EN2 9DG

Tel: (081) 363 5695
Fax: (081) 363 5704

Open 7 days a week
12pm to 5.30pm weekdays
10am to 5.30pm Sat-Sun

situla has also been recorded. The presence of *C. jugularis* and *E. quatuorlineata*, (known from only a single specimen, reported and described in the 1930's.) has never been found since. Even islands poor in species can be intriguing, doubtful records may be confirmed or even 'lost' skinks rediscovered!

Crete

Surprisingly, this massive island, 256 Km in length, with a varied and stunning scenery comprising the full range of Greek habitats, seems comparatively poor in its herpetofauna with just 16 species recorded. Though its plant life has numerous endemic species, this is not reflected in its herpetofauna and all species present can be found elsewhere in Greece. Three amphibians are found on Crete, *B. viridis*, *H. arborea* and *R. ridibunda*. Widespread Greek lizards present include *C. kotschyi*, *H. turcicus*, *L. trilineata* and *P. erhardii*. *T. mauritanica* is reported to be common. The most interesting rarity on Crete is *C. chamaeleon* which occurs on just three other Greek islands, all near Turkey. Most common of only four snakes recorded is *C. gemonensis* and in fresh water habitats *N. tessellata*. No venomous snakes have been found on Crete.

Most species mentioned can be identified using the Arnold *et al* field guide, apart from a few E. Aegean species which are described in the above account. When searching for reptiles, show respect for the animals' habitats, replacing rocks when turned, as destroying microhabitats can have a disastrous effect on these sensitive creatures. Random collecting is to be discouraged as many wild-caught European reptiles make poor captives, failing to adapt to life in a vivarium. An example is *E. situla*, wild-caught examples often refusing to feed, in contrast to captive-bred specimens which are available. It is far more satisfying to enjoy the memory of these animals in their natural environment than to suffer the guilt resulting from seeing them slowly decline in captivity.

A final word of warning - After having discovered the natural beauty of Greece and its fascinating herpetofauna, you may well become addicted!

Selected Bibliography / References

Arnold, E.N., Burton, J.A. & Ovenden, D.W. 1978. A Field Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Britain and Europe. Collins, London.

Beutler, A. & Fror, E. 1980. Die Amphibien und Reptilien der Nordkykladen (Griechenland). Mitt. Zool. Ges., Braunsau 3: 255-290.

Broggi, M.F. 1978. Herpetologische Beobachtungen auf der Insel Lesbos (Griechenland). Salamandra 14: 161-171.

Buchholz, K. & Schutz-Westrum, T. 1984. Zur Kenntnis der Schlangenfauuna der Nördlichen Sporaden. Zool. Anz. 173: 127-136.

Buttle, D. 1993. Notes on the Herpetofauna of Some of the Cyclades Islands, Greece. Brit. Herp. Soc. Bull. 40: 5-14.

Chondropoulos, B.P. 1966. A Checklist of the Greek Reptiles. I The Lizards. Amphibia-Reptilia 7: 217-235.

Chondropoulos, B.P. 1969. A Checklist of the Greek Reptiles. II The Snakes. Herpetozoa 2: 3-36.

Clark, R.J. 1999. A Report on a Herpetological Trip to the N.E. Aegean. Herp. 14: 88-82.

Clark, R.J. 1989. A Checklist of the Herpetofauna of the Argo-Saronic Gulf District, Greece. Brit. Herp. Soc. Bull. 28: 8-24.

Clark, R.J. 1989. Observations on the Lizard and Snake Fauna of the islands Kephallinia and Zakynthos, Ionian Sea, Greece. Herp. 18: 81-92.

Clark, R.J. 1993. The Herpetofauna of the Greek Island of Thassos. Herp. 18: 183-187.

Corbett, K. 1969. Conservation of European Reptiles and Amphibians. Christopher Helm, London.

Elselt, J. & Schmidler, J.F. 1995. Der Lacerta danfordi-Komplex. Spixiana 9: 289-329.

Fror, E. & Beutler, A. 1978. The Herpetofauna of the Oceanic Islands in the Santorini-Archipelago, Greece. Spixiana 1: 301-308.

Grillitsch, H. & Cabela, A. 1990. Zum systematischen Status der Blindschleichen (Squamata: Anguillidae) der Peloponnes und der südlichen Ionischen Inseln (Griechenland). Herpetozoa 2: 131-153.

Gruber, U. & Fuchs, D. 1977. Die Herpetofauna des paros-Archipels (Zentral Agais). Salamandra 13: 60-77.

Lanza, B. & Vanni, S. 1988. Hypotheses on the Origins of the Mediterranean Island batrachofauna. Bull. Soc. Zool. Fr. 112: 179-196.

Mertens, R. 1961. Die Amphibien und Reptilien der Insel Korfu. Senck. biol. 42: 1-29.

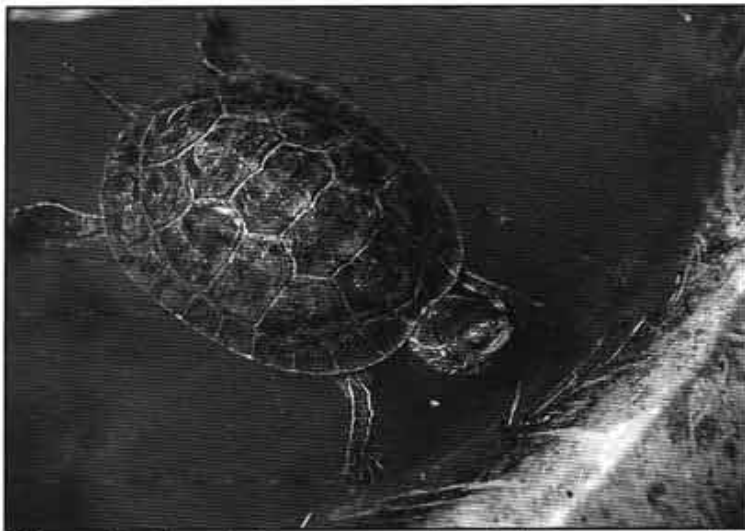
Schneider, B. 1983. Zur Herpetofauna der Insel Kalymnos und Telendos (Dodekanes, Agais). Salamandra 19: 61-70.

Sowig, P. 1965. Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Verbreitung und ökologie der Amphibien und Reptilien Kretas. 21: 252-262.

Werner, F. 1930. Contributions to the knowledge of the reptiles and amphibians of Greece, especially the Aegean Islands. Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool. Univ. Michigan 211: 1-47.



Turkish gecko *Hemidactylus turcicus*. C. Newman.



Stripe-necked terrapin *Mauremys caspica*, similar in appearance to the European pond terrapin but normally found in larger bodies of water. Occurs on a number of islands. C. Newman.

Appendix - Island Lists of Recorded Species

Corfu (Kerkyra):

Triturus karelinii, *T. vulgaris*, *Bufo bufo*, *B. viridis*, *Hyla arborea*, *Rana dalmatina*, *R. epeirotica*, *R. ridibunda*, *Hemidactylus turcicus*, *Agama stellio*, *Anguis fragilis*, *Ophisaurus apodus*, *Ablepharus kitaibelii*, *Algyroides nigropunctatus*, *Lacerta trilineata*, *L. viridis*, *Podarcis taurica*, *Typhlops vermicularis*, *Eryx jaculus*, *Coluber jugularis*, *C. Gemonensis*, *C. najadum*, *Elaphe longissima*, *E. quatorlineata*, *E. situla*, *Malpolon monspessulanus*, *Natrix natrix*, *N. tessellata*, *Telescopus fallax*, *Vipera ammodytes*, *Testudo hermanni*, *Emys orbicularis*, *Mauremys caspica*.

Lefkas (Lefkada):

T. vulgaris, *Bufo bufo*, *B. viridis*, *Hyla arborea*, *Rana dalmatina*, *R. ridibunda*, *Hemidactylus turcicus*, *Anguis fragilis*, *Ophisaurus apodus*, *Ablepharus kitaibelii*, *Algyroides moreoticus*, *A. nigropunctatus*, *Lacerta trilineata*, *Podarcis taurica*, *Coluber jugularis*, *C. Gemonensis*, *E.*

quatorlineata, *E. situla*, *M. monspessulanus*, *Natrix natrix*, *Telescopus fallax*, *Vipera ammodytes*, *Testudo hermanni*, *Emys orbicularis*.

Kefalonia:

T. vulgaris, *B. viridis*, *Hyla arborea*, *R. ridibunda*, *Cyrtodactylus kotschyi*, *Hemidactylus turcicus*, *Tarentola mauretanica*, *Anguis cephalonicus*, *Ophisaurus apodus*, *Ablepharus kitaibelii*, *Algyroides moreoticus*, *A. nigropunctatus*, *Lacerta trilineata*, *Podarcis taurica*, *Coluber jugularis*, *C. Gemonensis*, *E. quatorlineata*, *E. situla*, *M. monspessulanus*, *Natrix natrix*, *Telescopus fallax*, *Vipera ammodytes*, *Testudo hermanni*, *Emys orbicularis*.

Zakynthos (Zante):

B. viridis, *Hyla arborea*, *R. ridibunda*, *Cyrtodactylus kotschyi*, *Hemidactylus turcicus*, *Tarentola mauretanica*, *Anguis cephalonicus*, *Ophisaurus apodus*, *Ablepharus kitaibelii*, *Algyroides moreoticus*, *Lacerta trilineata*, *Podarcis taurica*, *C. Gemonensis*, *E. quatorlineata*, *E. situla*, *M. monspessulanus*, *Natrix natrix*, *Telescopus fallax*, *Emys orbicularis*.*

Aegina:

B. bufo, *C. kotschyi*, *H. turcicus*, *A. kitaibelii*, *Chalcides ocellatus*, *L. trilineata*, *C. jugularis*, *C. Gemonensis*, *C. Najadum*, *E. situla*.

Poros:

B. viridis, *R. ridibunda*, *C. kotschyi*, *H. turcicus*, *A. kitaibelii*, *C. ocellatus*, *L. trilineata*, *C. najadum*, *E. situla*, *M. monspessulanus*, *Testudo marginata*.

Skiathos:

L. trilineata, *L. viridis*, *E. quatorlineata*, *M. monspessulanus*, *Vipera ammodytes*.

Skopelos:

B. viridis, *R. ridibunda*, *H. turcicus*, *A. kitaibelii*, *C. ocellatus*, *L. trilineata*, *Podarcis erhardii*, *E. situla*, *M. monspessulanus*.

Thassos:

B. viridis, *Hyla arborea*, *Rana graeca*, *R. ridibunda*, *C. kotschyi*, *H. turcicus*, *Tarentola mauretanica*, *A. fragilis*, *O. apodus*, *C. ocellatus*, *L. viridis*, *Ophisops elegans*, *P. taurica*, *T. vermicularis*, *C. jugularis*, *C. najadum*, *E. quatorlineata*, *M. monspessulanus*, *N. natrix*, *V. ammodytes*, *Testudo graeca*, *T. marginata*, *M. caspica*.

Lesvos:

B. bufo, *B. viridis*, *H. arborea*, *R. ridibunda*, *C. kotschyi*, *H. turcicus*, *A. stellio*, *O. apodus*, *L. trilineata*, *O. elegans*, *T. vermicularis*, *C. jugularis*, *C. najadum*, *Eirenis modestus*, *E. situla*, *N. natrix*, *N. tessellata*, *Vipera xanthina*, *T. graeca*, *E. orbicularis*, *M. caspica*.

Samos:

B. bufo, *B. viridis*, *H. arborea*, *R. ridibunda*, *C. kotschyi*, *H. turcicus*, *A. stellio*, *Chamaeleo chamaeleon*, *O. apodus*, *Blanus strauchi*, *A. kitaibelii*, *Mabuya aurata*, *Lacerta anatolica*, *L. trilineata*, *O. elegans*, *T. vermicularis*, *E. jaculus*, *C. jugularis*, *C. najadum*, *E. modestus*, *E. situla*, *N. natrix*, *N. tessellata*, *T. fallax*, *Vipera xanthina*, *T. graeca*, *E. orbicularis*.

Kalymnos:

B. viridis, *C. kotschyi*, *H. turcicus*, *A. stellio*, *O. elegans*, *E. jaculus*, *C. jugularis*, *C. najadum*, *C. nummifer*, *E. modestus*, *T. fallax*, *V. xanthina*.

Kos:

B. viridis, *H. arborea*, *R. ridibunda*, *C. kotschyi*, *A. stellio*, *O. apodus*, *B. strauchi*, *A. kitaibelii*, *O. elegans*, *T. vermicularis*, *E. jaculus*, *C. jugularis*, *C. najadum*, *C. nummifer*, *E. situla*, *m. monspessulanus*, *N. natrix*, *V. xanthina*, *T. graeca*, *M. caspica*.

Rhodes:

B. viridis, *H. arborea*, *R. ridibunda*, *C. kotschyi**, *H. turcicus*, *A. stellio*, *O. apodus*, *B. strauchi*, *A. kitaibelii*, *C. ocellatus*, *M. aurata*, *Lacerta oertzeni*, *L. trilineata*, *O. elegans*, *T. vermicularis*, *C. jugularis*, *C. najadum*, *C. nummifer*, *E. situla*, *N. natrix*, *N. tessellata*, *T. fallax*, *M. caspica*.

Andros:

B. bufo, *R. ridibunda*, *C. kotschyi*, *A. kitaibelii*, *L. trilineata*, *P. Erhardii*, *T. vermicularis*, *C. jugularis*, *E. quatorlineata*, *E. situla*, *N. natrix*, *T. fallax*, *V. ammodytes*, *M. caspica*.

Paros:

R. ridibunda, *C. kotschyi*, *H. turcicus*, *A. stellio*, *A. kitaibelii*, *L. trilineata*, *E. jaculus*, *E. quatorlineata*, *E. situla*, *N. natrix*, *T. fallax*, *V. ammodytes*, *T. marginata*.

Santorini (Thira):

C. kotschyi, *H. turcicus*, *P. erhardii*, *Chalcides moseri****, *C. jugularis**, *E. quatorlineata**, *E. situla*, *T. fallax*.

Crete:

B. viridis, *H. arborea*, *R. ridibunda*, *C. kotschyi*, *H. turcicus*, *T. mauretanica*, *C. chamaeleon*, *C. ocellatus*, *L. trilineata*, *P. erhardii*, *C. gemonensis*, *E. situla*, *n. tessellata*, *T. fallax*, *T. graeca*, *m. caspica*.

THE REPTILIAN VIEWPOINT

Page 25 (Island lists of recorded species), should read:-

Lefkas (Lefkada):

Triturus vulgaris, *Bufo bufo*, *B. viridis*, *Hyla arborea*, *Rana dalmatina*, *R. ridibunda*, *Hemidactylus turcicus*, *Anguis fragilis*, *Ophisaurus apodus*, *Ablepharus kitaibelii*, *Algyroides moreoticus*, *A. nigropunctatus*, *Lacerta trilineata*, *Typhlops vermicularis*, *Coluber gemonensis*, *Malpolon monspessulanus*, *Natrix natrix*, *N. tessellata*, *Vipera ammodytes*, *Testudo hermanni*, *Emys orbicularis*.

Also, for the following lists:-

Skopelos: *Chalcides ocellatus* should not have been listed.

Thassos: *Tarentola mauretanic*a should not have been listed.

Errata:

From the article "An Introduction to: Reptiles and Amphibians of the Greek Islands" by David Buttle, which appeared in The Reptilian, volume 3 number 7.

Page 24, first column should read:-

The presence of *C. jugularis* and *E. quatorlineata* on Santori (both records single sloughs) requires confirmation. A skink, *Chalcides moseri*, is known from only a single specimen reported and described in the 1930's and has never been found since.