Lacerta parva Boulenger, a new lizard species for the European fauna

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During a recent expedition to Turkish Thrace, one of us (MB) collected the lizard, *Lacerta parva* Boulenger, 1887, which has never been recorded before in Europe. This Anatolian species is included in some general reviews and field guides to European reptiles, but all Caucasian records cited are from Asia.

Lacerta parva is endemic to the Anatolian peninsula and Transcaucasia. After the original description, the most significant contributions on this species were published by Boulenger (1916, 1920), Lantz and Cyrén (1939) and a general review, including all published records, was carried out by Peters (1962), who made a large morphological analysis of characters and variability. More recently, other faunistic and ecological records have been given by Clark and Clark (1973), and Başoğlu and Baran (1977).

At present, more than forty localities in Asiatic Turkey and the Caucasian Republics of Armenia, Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan, have been published. Other specimens have been collected in Asiatic Turkey during expeditions from Rome Universities. These specimens are preserved in the herpetological collection of the Zoological Museum, Rome "La Sapienza" University, and others in the Museo civico di Storia naturale di Carmagnola, Turin.

One male was collected in the Thracian locality of Emirali (vilayet Tekirdağ, m 250, 2 May 1991). Other Anatolian localities (Kütahya, vil. Kütahya; Afyon airport, vil. Afyon; between Korkuteli and Kemer near Söğuk, vil. Antalya; Hüyük between Niğde and Kayseri, vil. Niğde; 25 km N of Çamardi, near Elmali, vil. Niğde; Kizinilis geçidi, vil. Tokat; W slope of the Büyük Kizil dağ, vil. Sivas) are located between 950 and 1700 m; the specimens were collected in April and May.

The record from Kütahya is a little more to the west than others published, but it is positioned in the same area of West Anatolia. The Thracian locality clearly enlarges the distribution of *L. parva* to west and demonstrates the existence of European populations. It is suggested that unrecorded populations may also be found in the intermediate West Anatolian regions of Bursa, Balikesir and Çanakkale, but the ecological characteristics of the coastal areas of these provinces may not be favourable to the presence of the species. All localities from which *L. parva* has been cited (Peters, 1962; Clark and Clark, 1973), or collected by us, are characterized as steppe habitats. Until now, no Mediterranean records have been cited; the most southern localities of Lycian and Cylician Taurus are

positioned in the northern slope of this mountain chain and are characterized as steppe habitat.

The new Thracian locality is positioned on the western slope of the Isiklar Dagi, and it is characterized as steppe vegetation with more continental climatic characters (Tanoğlu et al., 1961) rather than the typical Mediterranean vegetation and Mediterranean bioclimate of southern Thracia (Akman, 1982). This supports the possibility that the European population is relictual and isolated from the continuous Anatolian populations for ecological reasons. The presence of Anatolian (or Turanian-Anatolian) elements in the Thracian, Macedonian and Bulgarian regions is documented in the literature on many animal and plant groups.

A large morphological description of *L. parva*, including the analysis of the intra- and interpopulational variability, was carried out by Peters (1962), who compared several Anatolian and Armenian specimens from different populations. The specimens examined show the typical characteristics of the species (Peters, 1962). The single specimen from Thrace has the peculiarity of a single postnasal scale on the right side and the two on the left weakly separated (the upper one is very small). This morphological condition has been reported by other authors (Lantz and Cyrén, 1939; Terent'ev and Chernov, 1949).

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