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Check-list of the herpetofauna inhabiting the Riserva Naturale Regionale Selva del Lamone (Viterbo-Latium): new important records in Central Italy.

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The faunistic knowledge on amphibians and reptiles has greatly increased in Italy over the last years and many national, regional, provincial atlases have summarized the amount of the data gathered (*i.e.* Doria & Salvidio, 1994; Andreone & Sindaco, 1998; Lapini *et al.*, 1999; Mazzotti *et al.*, 1999; Bologna *et al.*, 2000; Lo Valvo & Longo, 2002; Bernini *et al.*, 2004; Ragni *et al.*, 2006; Sindaco *et al.*, 2006; Bonato *et al.*, 2007).

In this short note we report data on the presence of amphibians and reptiles in the protected area "Riserva Naturale Regionale Selva del Lamone" (Latium, Viterbo), which was set up in 1994 and is still one of the least known natural areas in Latium (Baragliu *et al.*, 2007). Its overall territory, located in the district of Farnese (Viterbo), at the border with Tuscany, is constituted by a large plain area (350 m a.s.l.) which, including the buffer area, covers 3400 ha. Forests of *Quercus cerris*, mixed up with other deciduous plants, separated by grazing, cultivated lands and shrubs, are the dominant vegetation types in this area (Mantero, 1999; Baragliu *et al.*, 2007). The data which have been gathered in the last years are the result both of *ad hoc* sampling on the study area and the ordinary surveillance activity by the personnel of the Reserve. The study has taken into account all types of habitats, such as woods, ecotonal environments (woods-grass, grazing land), bushes and various water courses. The data have then been compared with

Table 1. All species observed in the Reserve are listed and compared with the information reported in the national (Sindaco *et al.*, 2006) and regional amphibians and reptiles atlas (Bologna *et al.*, 2000). The symbol (**) mean that it is a new record.

Species	Regional Atlas (Latium)	National Atlas
Spectacled Salamander (<i>Salamandrina perspicillata</i>)**	No	No
Italian Crested Newt (<i>Triturus carnifex</i>)	Yes	Yes
Smooth Newt (<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>)	Yes	Yes
Common Toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>)	Yes	Yes
Green Toad (<i>Bufo lineatus</i>)**	No	No
Italian Tree Frog (<i>Hyla intermedia</i>)**	No	No
Berger's Frog/Uzzell's Frog (<i>Pelophylax bergeri</i> / <i>Pelophylax</i> kl. <i>hispanica</i>)	Yes	Yes
Agil Frog (<i>Rana dalmatina</i>)	Yes (literature before 1980)	Yes
Italian Stream Frog (<i>Rana italica</i>)	Yes	Yes
Hermann's Tortoise (<i>Testudo hermanni</i>)	Yes (literature before 1980)	Yes
Slow Worm (<i>Anguis fragilis</i>)	Yes (literature before 1980)	Yes
Western Green Lizard (<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>)	Yes	Yes
Common Wall Lizard (<i>Podarcis muralis</i>)	Yes	Yes
Italian Wall Lizard (<i>Podarcis sicula</i>)	Yes	Yes
Three-toed Skink (<i>Chalcides chalcides</i>)	Yes	Yes
Smooth Snake (<i>Coronella austriaca</i>)**	No	No
Southern Smooth Snake (<i>Coronella girondica</i>)**	No	No
Four-lined Snake (<i>Elaphe quatuorlineata</i>)	Yes	Yes
Western Whip Snake (<i>Hierophis viridiflavus</i>)	Yes	Yes
Grass Snake (<i>Natrix natrix</i>)	Yes	Yes
Dice Snake (<i>Natrix tessellata</i>)	Yes	Yes
Aesculapian Snake (<i>Zamenis longissimus</i>)**	No	Yes (literature before 1985)
Asp Viper (<i>Vipera aspis</i>)	Yes	Yes

those reported in the atlas of amphibians and reptiles in Latium (Bologna *et al.*, 2000) and in Italy (Sindaco *et al.*, 2006).

In the study area were found 9 species of amphibians (*Salamandrina perspicillata*, *Triturus carnifex*, *Lissotriton vulgaris*, *Bufo bufo*, *Bufo lineatus*, *Hyla inter-*

media, *Pelophylax bergeri* / *Pelophylax* kl. *hispanica*, *Rana dalmatina*, *Rana italica*) and 14 species of reptiles (*Testudo hermanni*, *Chalcides chalcides*, *Anguis fragilis*, *Lacerta bilineata*, *Podarcis muralis*, *Podarcis sicula*, *Hierophis viridiflavus*, *Coronella austriaca*, *Coronella girondica*, *Zamenis longissimus*, *Elaphe quatuorlineata*, *Natrix natrix*, *Natrix tessellata*, *Vipera aspis*). In table 1 we compare the data collected during the present study with those reported in the above-mentioned regional and national Atlases.

Our data allowed to update the species composition of the amphibians and reptiles inhabiting the area, and to stress its regional herpetological importance. Indeed, the area is characterized by the occurrence of both a few interesting species and a high species richness, also on the basis of the new findings that have been reported in this study. The species that were observed for the first time in the study area during the present research project include 3 amphibians (*Salamandrina perspicillata*, *Bufo lineatus* and *Hyla intermedia*), and 3 reptiles (*Coronella girondica*, *C. austriaca* and *Zamenis longissimus*). In particular, we should mention *Salamandrina perspicillata*, a species of conservation concern, and *Coronella girondica*, a rather rare species with restricted range in Latium (Bologna *et al.*, 2000). The observation of *Coronella girondica* and *C. austriaca* is also noteworthy because they were never been recorded before in Northern Latium and Southern Tuscany (Bologna *et al.*, 2000; Sindaco *et al.*, 2006; Vanni & Nistri, 2006). It was not possible to confirm the presence of other species such as *Bombina pachypus* (the few direct observations concerning the animal date back to 1987) and *Emys orbicularis* (limited to an uncertain observation) (AA.VV., 2004); the European pond terrapin has been recently recorded for the study area, but this observation must be confirmed since it occurred in a highly anthropized area and so it was likely referred to an escaped or transported individual.

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