



Crete, 06. - 13.04.2012

The largest Greek island has a species-poor but interesting herpetofauna, botanically it is a real highlight. We were interested in both! Our trip was focused on the western part of Crete, where the Cretan wall lizard (*Podarcis cretensis*) occurs - in the areas of Plakias (Southcoast) and Georgioupolis (Northcoast).



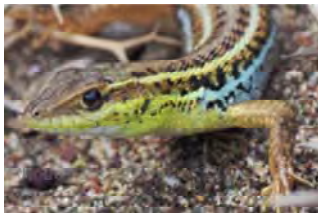
*Podarcis cretensis* (male) at Plakias

06.04.2012

The area between Plakias and Agia Galini is a great place for orchid hunters and it has an impressive landscape. Our search started with summerly temperatures: Direktly after our arrival we started hunting for lizards – and succeeded! We found a beautiful male and several females.



Female *Podarcis cretensis* – these lizards are widespread in Western Crete but in low population densities.







Pyrenees, 2008 - 2016



Sicily & Aeolian Islands, 2015  
6.6.2016



Spain, 2015 - 1.9.2015



11.7.2015



Spain, 2015 - 14.9.2014



Mallorca / ...



*Verbascum arcturus* in a crevice

07.04.2012

We visited a river mouth with *Mauremys rivulata*. Afterwards we went to the mountains to search for orchids.

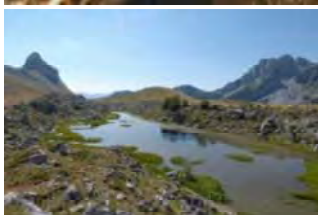
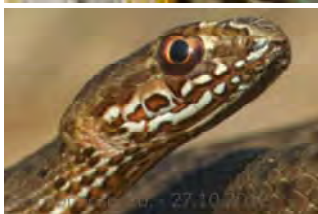


Habitat of *Mauremys rivulata*



Juvenile *Mauremys rivulata*





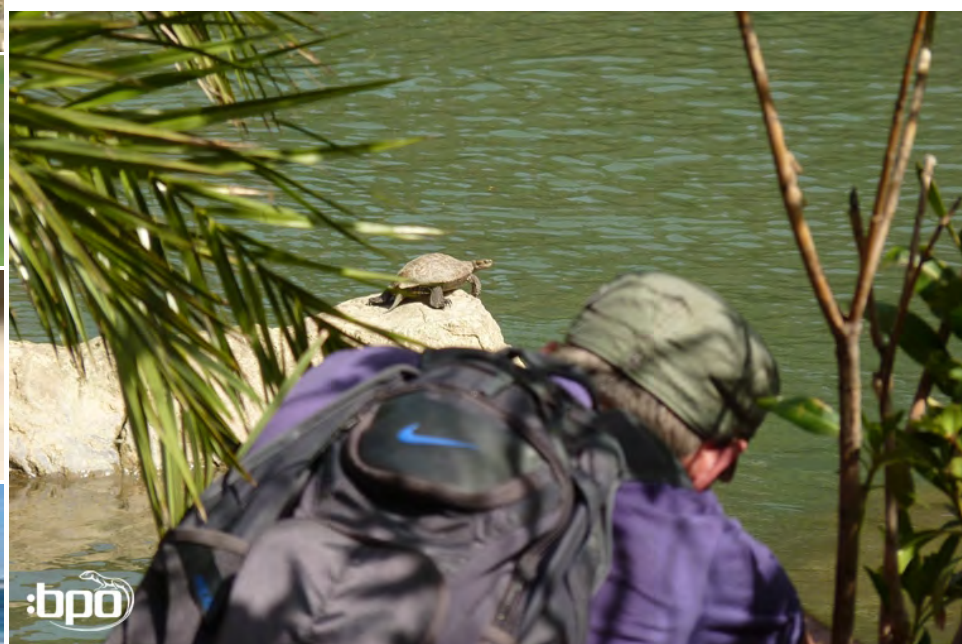
northern spain, 02 - 13.01.11



Adult *Mauremys rivulata* in the water...



...and sunbasking



Turtle-Stalking





Aegean Islands, 28.05. - 13.06.2011



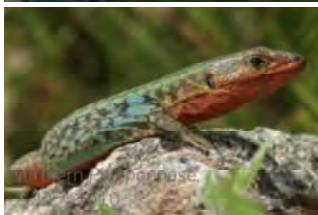
Kastellon, 2012



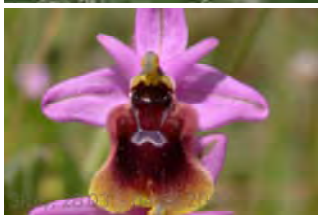
Central Spain, 25.09. - 03.10.2010



Alps, 03. - 17.07.2010



Alps, 03. - 17.07.2010



Spain, November 2008



*Daphne sericea*



*Orchis pauciflora* with the snow-capped Psiloritis in the back



*Orchis boryi*





*Orchis quadripunctata*



*Ophrys heldreichii*



Orchid-Yoga!





*Tulipa doerfleri* - a endemic tulip of Crete



*Tulipa saxatilis*



*Pelodytes cretensis*



Zamenis situla – besides this species we saw some Hierophis gemonensis but didn't manage to take pictures



In the evening at the hotel: Chalcides ocellatus

08.04.2012

Another botanical trip with some highlights: we visited a habitat of *Ophrys cretica* which we had found in 2003 – it still was a great orchid place!





Lupinus pilosus with Ferula communis



A Cretan endemic: Aristolochia cretica...



...with translucent inflorescences





Another endemic: *Petromarula pinnata*



Hyper-chromatic *Orchis italica*



*Ophrys cretica*





*Ophrys candica*



Juvenile *Lacerta trilineata*



View to the Lefka Ori



09.04.2012

We moved to our second accomodation in Georgioupolis – with rainy weather.



Rain clouds #1

10.04.2012

Incredible, how much it can rain within 24 hours!



Rain clouds #2

11.04.2012

The sun was out again and we went to the Lefka Ori: another try for *Podarcis cretensis*. This time, we found some magnificent specimen.





Podarcis cretensis with orange throat...



a subadult male...



an adult male with yellow throat...





and another male: it is great visiting these lizards in spring when they show bright colors



*Anemone coronaria*



*Romulea bulbocodium*





Due to the rainy weather during the last days this female *Lacerta trilineata* was quite dirty



The third tulip species: *Tulipa bakeri*



Pond in the Lefka Ori – full of toads (*Bufo viridis*)





Obligatory self-timer shot



We made a detour of 25 km for this rare fern: *Woodwardia radicans*



*Arum concinatum*





Lacerta trilineata basking on a fishing net

12.04.2012

We spent the last day of our trip at the beach – in the morning of 13.04.2012 we had to leave for our way home.



Chalcides ocellatus



Bufo viridis





Hemidactylus turcicus in dusk

The home of European lizards - by Birgit & Peter Oefinger!