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OBSERVATIONS ON THE HERPETOFAUNA OF CAMPONE
(CARNIC PREALPS, FRIULI)

*OSSERVAZIONI SULLA FAUNA ERPETOLOGICA DI CAMPONE
(PREALPI CARNICHE, FRIULI)*

Abstract — The herpetological fauna of Campone (Central Friuli, province of Pordenone) consists of 8 amphibian and 11 reptile species. From the biogeographical point of view, the most interesting species are *Triturus alpestris*, *Bombina variegata*, *Lacerta vivipara*, *Vipera ammodytes* and *V. aspis*. Short ecological and taxonomical remarks about the discussed entities are reported.

Key words: Amphibians, Reptiles, Ecology, Friuli.

Riassunto breve — *La fauna erpetologica della regione di Campone (Friuli centrale, provincia di Pordenone) è costituita da 8 specie di Anfibi e da 11 specie di Rettili. Le specie più interessanti dal punto di vista biogeografico sono Triturus alpestris, Bombina variegata, Lacerta vivipara, Vipera ammodytes e V. aspis. Gli Autori descrivono brevemente i biotopi frequentati dalle entità presenti nell'area considerata, riportando anche alcune osservazioni conservazionistiche.*

Parole chiave: Anfibi, Rettili, Ecologia, Friuli.

Introduction

The local interest in biogeography and ecology, and the paucity of data from Central Friuli, led us to intensive herpetological collecting in the surrounding area of Campone (province of Pordenone) as well as in the upper and middle valley of the Chiarzò stream in 1969-1982.

A major part of the collection of Amphibians and Reptiles is preserved in the Natural History Museum of Friuli, Udine; a few specimens are also preserved in the Institute of Zoology of the University of Rome.

The investigated area, situated between the artificial Lake of Tramonti and the Monte Rossa mountain system (Carnic Prealps, eastern Italy), extends

from 350 m to 800 m a.s.l. (fig. 1). The whole area is characterized by a temperate-damp climate and by plentiful rainfalls all over the year, with two main peaks in autumn and in spring.

The vegetation of the eocene hills of Campone is characterized by the *Carici-Fagetum* association (LAUSI et al., 1978). Nevertheless, because of the deforestation and the excessive development of the montane pasture, the original *Fagus sylvatica* forests are now reduced to degraded beech-woods, with a moderate infiltration of alien trees such as *Robinia pseudacacia* and *Ailanthus altissima*. The grass vegetation of the pastures of the hill zone belongs to the *Seslerio-Mesobrometum* s.l. association. *Alnus glutinosa*, *A. incana* and *Salix* spp., together with *Populus alba* and *Quercus petraea*, characterize the vegetation of the banks of the Chiarzò stream. Moreover, in the hillsides of the upper Chiarzò valley it is to be noted the presence of the following entities: *Pinus mugo* (grex arborea), *Larix decidua*, *Rhododendron hirsutum*, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*.

Herpetofaunal survey

AMPHIBIA

Salamandridae

Salamandra salamandra salamandra (LINNAEUS, 1758)

- Rù del Taront, 430 m: 1♂, 1♀ (10.9.1970); 1♀, 1 juv. (12.9.1972).
- Grisa, 428 m: 1♀ (10.9.1970); 1♀ (13.9.1972).
- Sghittosa di sopra, 510 m: 3♂♂, 1♀ (12.7.1970); 2♀♀ (12.7.1971); 2♂♂ (9.7.1972).
- Cleva, 430-460 m: 3♂♂, 1♀ (9.9.1972); 1♂ (10.9.1973).
- La Fratta sui Piani, near Sclaf, 570-685 m: 8♂♂, 3♀♀, 2 juv. (10.9.1972).
- Battei, near Pradis Grotte, 600 m.: 1♀ (10.9.1972).
- Sialin, 580 m: 10♂♂, 2♀♀, 1 juv. (18.9.1973).
- Panzet, 670 m: 1♀ (18.9.1973).
- Beloz, 500 m: 1♂ (18.9.1973); 2♂♂ (25.9.1973).
- Rovine di Pagnac, 450 m: 5♂♂ (24.9.1973).
- Sualdin, 590-630 m: 3♂♂, 2♀♀ (25.9.1973).
- Sghittosa di sotto, 490 m: 1♂, 1♀ (25.9.1973).
- Zulian, 528 m: 32 larvae (20.8.1975).
- Campone, 436 m: 2 juv. (5.9.1972).

An extremely common species, found in a variety of moist places such

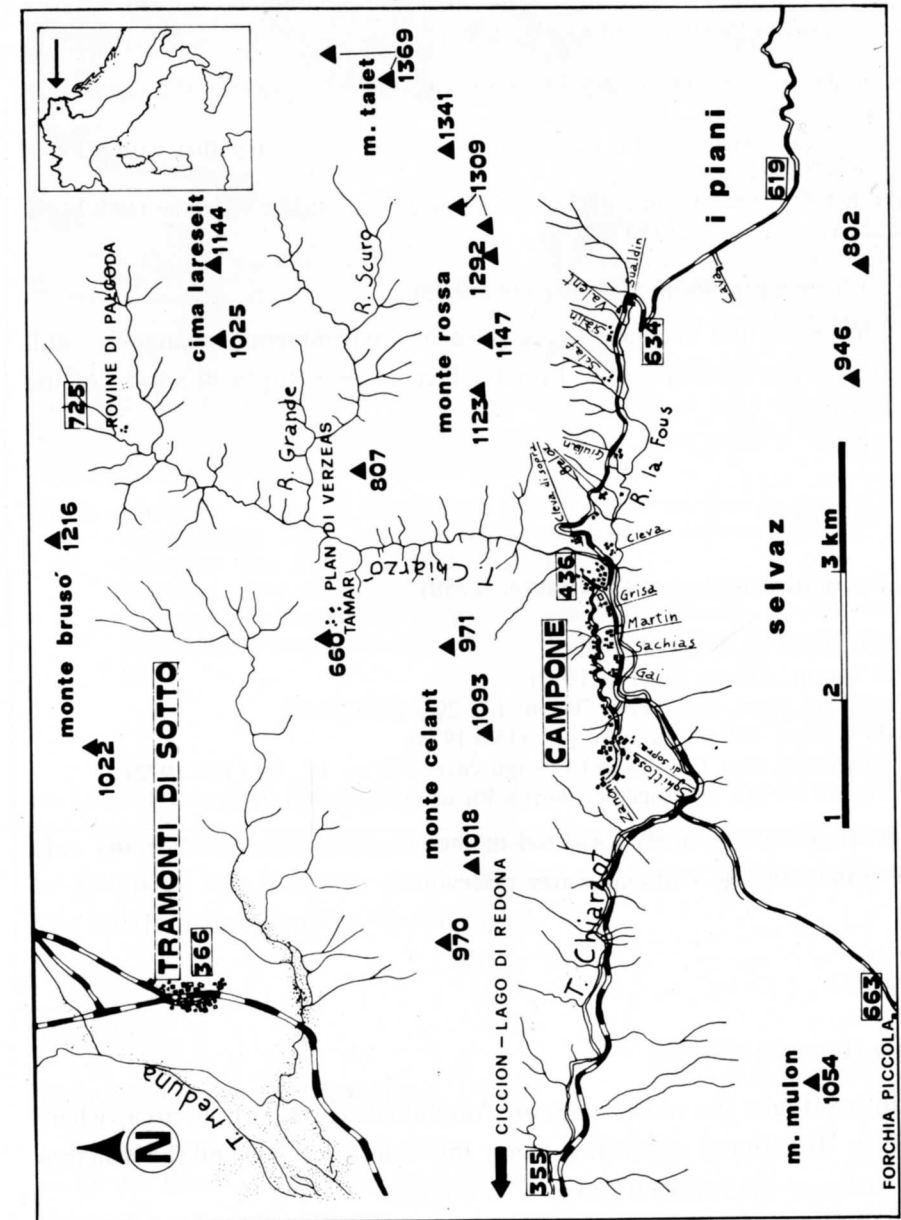


Fig. 1 - Map of the investigated area.
- Carta schematica dell'area studiata.

