

Notes on the herpetofauna of Ismaros Mts. (Northern Greece, Rhodopi County)

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Ismaros Mountains is a small mountain massif (highest point: Ismaros Peak, 681 m) situated about 40 km west of Alexandroupolis Town (Northern Greece) reaching the shore line of the Aegean Sea (Fig. 1). The predominant vegetation is presented mainly by evergreen shrubs *Quercus coccifera* L., which are dominate on rocky landscapes. Also there are some relatively large areas occupied by *Platanus orientalis* L. forests along small rivers and drying streams, and some olive tree (*Olea europaea* L.) plantations near the villages (Georgiev & Ivanova 2015).

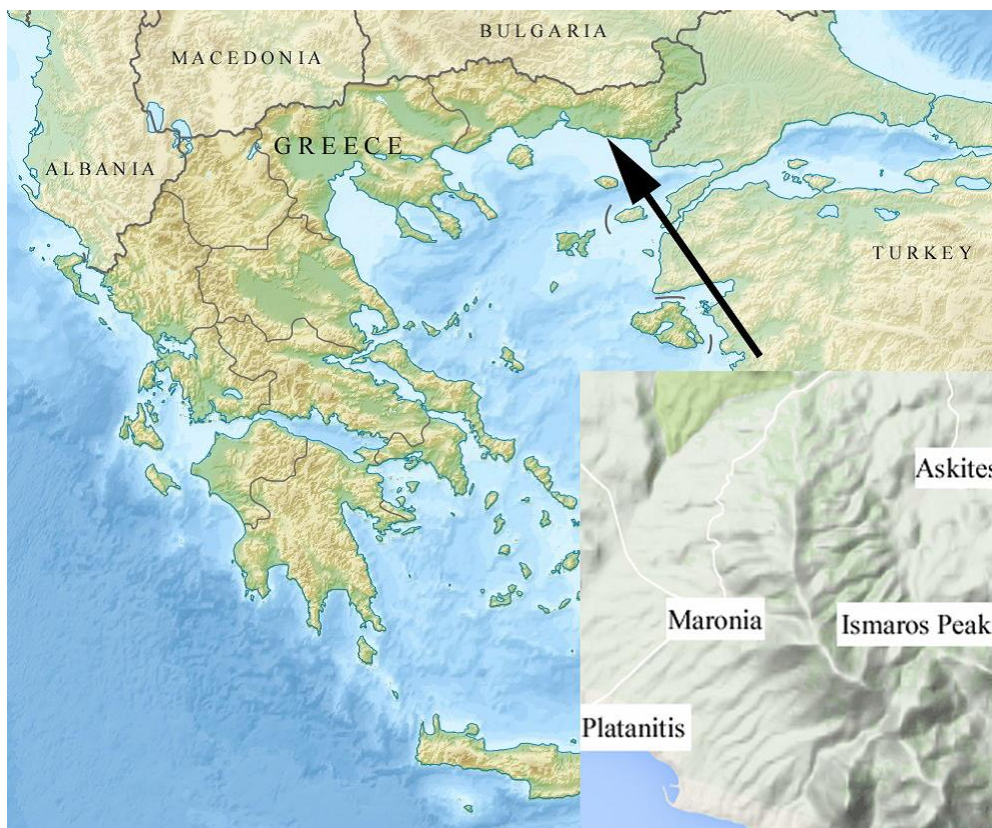


Figure 1. Indicative map of the study area: location of the Ismaros Mts., Northern Greece (after Georgiev & Ivanova 2015).

The information about the herpetofauna of Ismaros Mts. is scarce. Most of the information about the distribution of the amphibians and reptiles in Greece concerns the Greek islands (Pafilis 2010) and fewer studies are done on the mainland of the country. There are also some studies on the herpetofauna in some protected territories (Malakou et al. 1986, Bousbouras & Ioannidis 1994 and others) and some districts (Gruber & Fuchs 1977, Clark 1992 and others), but there is little information about the herpetofauna of Ismaros Mts.

On several trips made in April and June in 2015 to Ismaros Mts, we recorded 5 amphibian species - *Lisstriton vulgaris*, *Bufo bufo*, *B. viridis* complex, *Hyla arborea* complex and *Pelophylax ridibundus* and 8 reptiles - *Testudo graeca*, *Mauremys rivulata*, *Mediodactylus kotschy*, *Pseudopus apodus*, *Lacerta viridis*, *Xerotyphlops vermicularis*, *Natrix natrix* and *Malpolon insignitus* (Table 1). The taxonomy follows Speybroeck et al. (2010) and Hedges et al. (2014).

Closest to the study area is the Evros Province, where Helmer & Scholte (1985) reported 12 amphibian species and 27 reptiles, including all species reported by us, except for *Xerotyphlops vermicularis*. The registered in the present study species are pretty common for Greece (Helmer & Scholte 1985), but our observations will contribute for the knowledge on the herpetofaunal diversity and distribution in this part of the country.

Table 1. Recorded species of amphibians and reptiles in Ismaros Mts. (Northern Greece) and their localities with geographic coordinates.

Species	Date	Geographic coordinates	Altitude	Locality	Habitat
<i>Lisstriton vulgaris</i>	10.4.2015	N40 55.005 E25 31.053	190	North from Maroneia Village	Fountain
	16.6.2015	N40 55.177 E25 31.060	208	North from Maroneia Village	Fountain
<i>Bufo bufo</i>	16.6.2015	N40 53.182 E25 28.423	17	The mouth of a river near Platanitis village	<i>Platanus orientalis</i> forest
	16.6.2015	N40 53.206 E25 29.250	6	The yard of Ismaros hotel, Platanitis Village	Urban settlement
<i>Bufo viridis</i> complex	16.6.2015	N40 53.206 E25 29.250	6	The yard of Ismaros hotel, Platanitis Village	Urban settlement
<i>Hyla arborea</i> complex	10.4.2015	N40 55.310 E25 36.272	177	Near nature monument "Rock of Petrota"	Maquis
<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>	16.6.2015	N40 54.350 E25 31.081	201	North from Maroneia Village	Fountain
	16.6.2015	N40 53.182 E25 28.423	18	Platanitis Village	River
<i>Testudo graeca</i>	16.6.2015	N40 55.755 E25 30.575	9	North from Maroneia Village	Maquis
	16.6.2015	N40 53.175 E25 28.577	18	Platanitis Village	Urban settlement
<i>Mauremys rivulata</i>	16.6.2015	N40 53.182 E25 28.423	17	The mouth of a river near Platanitis village	River
<i>Mediodactylus kotschy</i>	16.6.2015	N40 53.181 E25 29.081	6	The yard of Ismaros hotel, Platanitis Village	Urban settlement
<i>Pseudopus apodus</i>	16.6.2015	N40 53.170 E25 29.918	42	East from Platanitis Village	Arable land
<i>Lacerta viridis</i>	17.6.2015	N40 52.511 E25 31.035	59	North-east from the Dionysus Temple	Maquis
<i>Xerotyphlops vermicularis</i>	16.6.2015	N40 54.350 E25 31.081	102	Maroneia Village	Urban settlement
<i>Natrix natrix</i>	16.6.2015	N40 53.182 E25 28.423	17	The mouth of a river near Platanitis village	River
<i>Malpolon insignitus</i>	16.6.2015	N40 54.378 E25 31.748	90	Maroneia village, near Roxani hotel	Urban settlement

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