

SAURIA IN HERPETOLOGICAL COLLECTION OF THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM IN SPLIT, CROATIA

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INTRODUCTION

The Natural History Museum in Split was founded on 10 March 1924 (Ževrnja et al., 2004). From the very beginning of the Museum's opening, its founder, the first director and curator Mr. Umberto Girometta, started to collect materials for the herpetological collection, the integral part of which was also the collection of sauria. His work to establish the herpetological collection continued Mr. Petar Novak and Mr. Antun Cvitanić. Present-day herpetological collection of Natural History Museum in Split is the result of work and material collection in period from twenties of twentieth century to the end of 2014.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

During June 2013 and July 2014 the herpetological collection of Natural History Museum was analysed, and the collection of sauria is the integral part of it. The material is stored in alcohol with the exception of 7 dermoplastic preparations. While working on the analysis of the collection, "Book of inventory: vertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals" of the Natural History Museum in Split was used, and to identify certain species we used available literature (Arnold and Burton, 2002, Marković, 2004, Cox et al., 2006, Tvrtković et al., 2006, Jelić et al., 2012).

RESULTS

Analysis of the herpetological collection of Natural History Museum in Split found that sauria were represented in the herpetological collection by 130 inventory numbers with 237 samples. In the herpetological collection there are samples of 5 families, 5 subfamilies, 10 genera and 14 sauria species.

Sauria

Agamidae

Agaminae

Laudakia

L. stellio Linnaeus, 1758 - 1

Anguinidae

Anguinae

Anguis

A. fragilis Linnaeus, 1758 - 1

Pseudopus

P. apodus (Pallas, 1775) - 8

Chamaeleonidae

Chamaeleoninae

Chamaeleo

C. sp. - 1

C. chamaeleon (Linnaeus, 1758) - 3

Gekkonidae

Gekkoninae

Hemidactylus

H. turcicus (Linnaeus, 1758) - 10

Lacertidae

Lacertinae

Acantodactylus

A. savignyi (Audouin, 1809) - 1

Dalmatolacerta

D. oxycephala (Duméril & Bibron, 1839) - 2

Dinarolacerta

D. mosorensis (Kolombatovic, 1886) - 1

Lacerta

L. agilis Linnaeus, 1758 - 7

L. trilineata Bedriaga, 1886 - 10

L. trilineata major (Boulenger, 1887) - 1

L. viridis (Laurenti, 1768) - 8

Podarcis

P. melisellensis (Braun, 1877) - 35

P. melisellensis fumana (Werner, 1891) - 39

P. melisellensis melisellensis (Braun, 1877) - 1

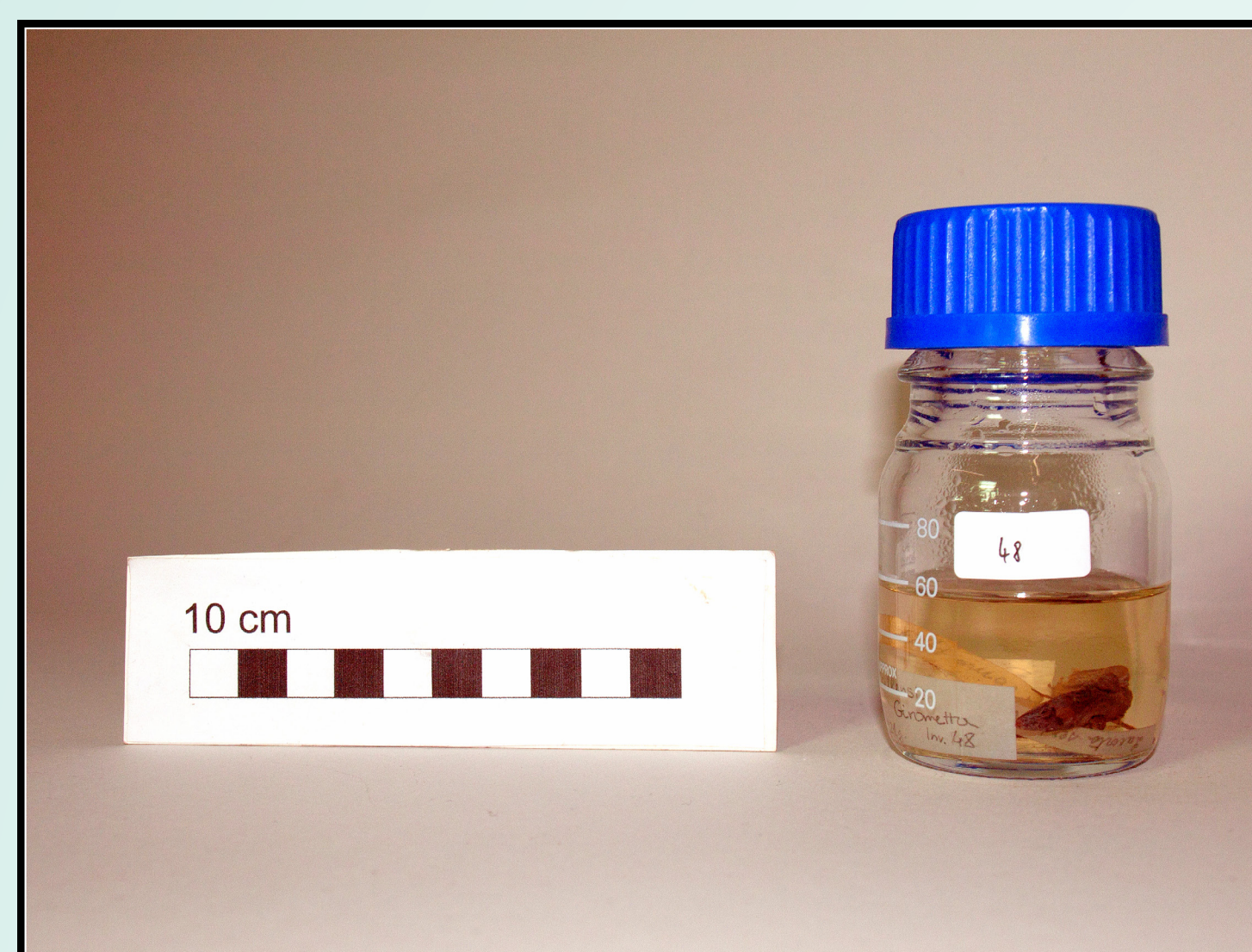
P. muralis (Laurenti, 1768) - 4

P. siculus (Rafinesque, 1810) - 94

P. siculus adriaticus (Werner, 1902) - 7

P. siculus campestris (De Betta, 1857) - 2

P. siculus pelagosae (Bedriaga, 1886) - 1



Picture 1. The oldest specimen from 1921th year - *Podarcis melisellensis melisellensis* (Braun, 1877) from Jabuka island



Picture 2. The youngest specimen from 2014th year - *Lacerta trilineata* Bedriaga, 1866 from Dugopolje (Krč)

The largest number of specimens (fig. 1) was collected by Girometta, U. in Dalmatian area. However, 64 samples (27%) do not contain information about the collector and 18 samples (8%) do not contain information about the locality. The same case is with the dates of collection, which are missing for 44 (19%) samples. For 17 samples (7%) there are no data about collector or collection date or locality where the specimens were collected. The oldest specimen was collected in 1921, and the most recent in 2014.

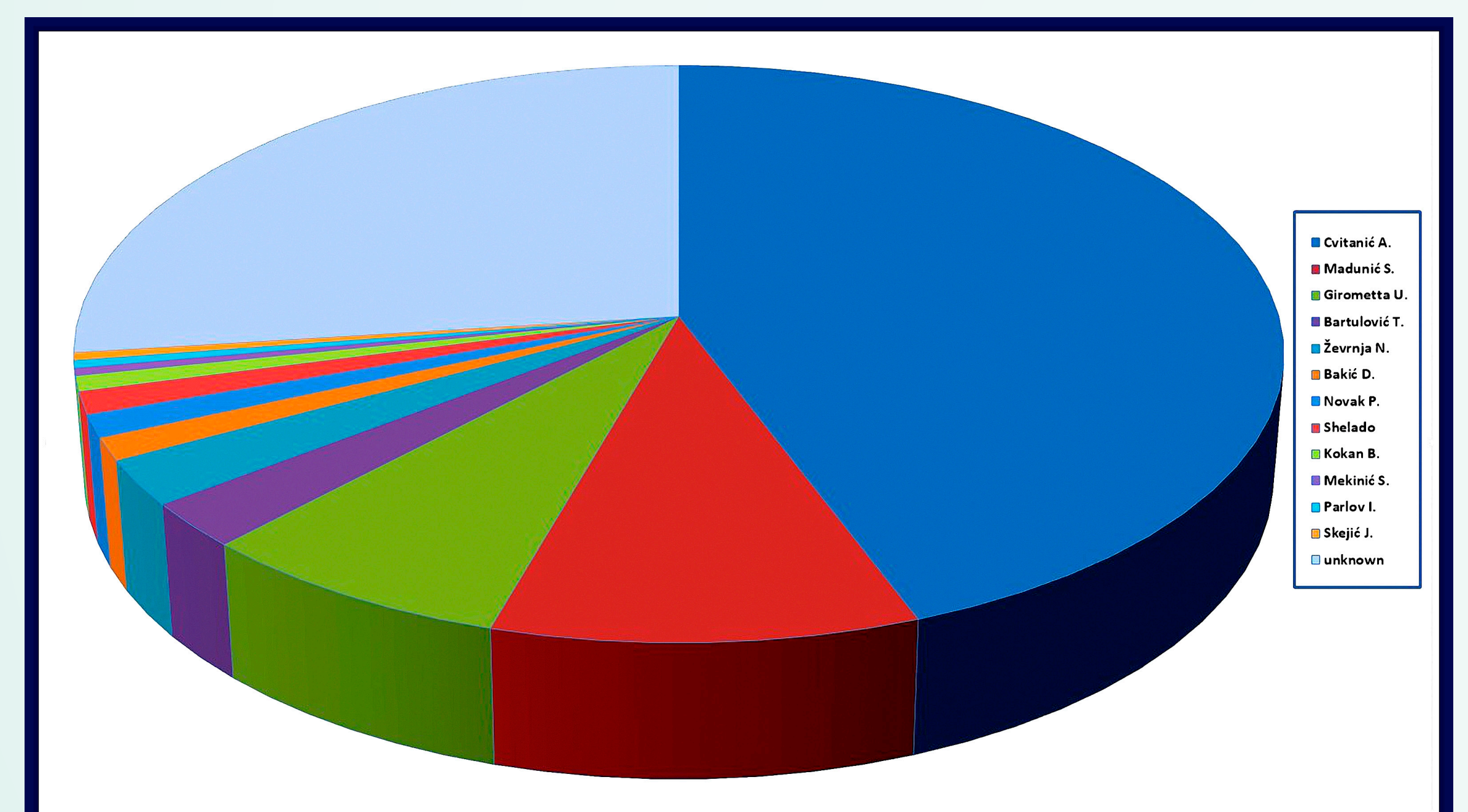


Figure 1. Distribution of samples by collectors

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Analysis of the herpetological collection of Natural History Museum in Split found that sauria were represented in the herpetological collection by 130 inventory numbers with 237 samples. In the herpetological collection there are samples of 5 families, 5 subfamilies, 10 genera and 14 sauria species. The most represented samples are from Lacertidae families, in fact genera Podarcis. The largest number of samples was collected by Girometta, U. collecting in the area of Dalmatia. A small part of the collection doesn't contain information of collector or collection date. The collection of sauria was created in period of twenties of XX. century to the end of 2014.