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CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE OF PHENOTYPIC VARIATIONS OF SNAKES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA (P)

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The majority of snake species which actually populate the territory between Nistru and Prut rivers are polytypic and each is represented by one subspecies, their populations being situated at the limit of their distribution range. The phenotypic variation (coloring forms and the types of pholidosis) is more common at the *Natrix natrix*, *Natrix tessellata*, *Elaphe longissima*, *Vipera berus* populations. Within the populations of *N. n. natrix* there can be met the «spotted» form with different nuances, rarely «melanic» and «bilinear» forms. The last one seems to be identified as the subspecies *N. n. persa*, and constitutes in the south zone 25% of the population.

The variation of the coloring at *N. tessellata* do not show any differences comparing with other regions, except the individuals with a uniform black coloration of the abdomen, the white or rose spots form thin lateral stripes. There can be met individuals with a uniform dorsal coloration without spots. In the valley of Ichel river there can be met individuals with one lateral row of white-yellow spots, sometimes even with two light rows on the back, which remind the «bilinear» form of *N. natrix*. On the south zone is met the melanic form with abdominal red spots against a black background. The «melanic» form can be met also within the populations of *E. longissima*.

Vipera berus is represented by 3 coloring forms: «brown», «gray» and «melanic». The last one in some population reach up to 100% (Vulcanesti), at the juveniles the melanic form is missing, it appears with the growth of the individuals. The juveniles of dark gray color become melanic. The melanic individuals have often 23 transversal scales.

Key words: snakes, coloring forms, variations, pholidosis

PULSATION OF LIZARD'S AREAS ON THE NORTH - WEST CAUCASUS (O)

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Saurofauna of the North-Western Caucasus includes 9 species. Among them are narrow distributed forms, such as *Darevskia derjugini* and *D. brauneri szczerbaki*. During last decade it was noted increasing of *D. b. szczerbaki* distribution range. This oppressed relict lizard was known only from two points on the extreme north-west Caucasian Black Sea Coast (Capes Big and Small Utrishs). We found it in several places along the Black Sea Coast, including Mokraya Schel near settlement Djurso, Limanchik Lake, vicinity of settlement Betta, Gulf Inal near settlement Bzhid. So known area of distribution has increased more than 100 km.

Opposite situation is recorded for *Darevskia derjugini*. On the end of XX century it was distributed from River Ashe eastward to the border between Russia and Abkhasia witching boundaries of Russia. Now this species extinct from the periphery of distribution range and it survived in several isolated locations near Sochi and in Caucasian State Nature Biosphere Reserve. In Russia total area of this species decreased more than in 200000 hectares.

Both processes depend from last years climate changes in the North-West Caucasus. Aridisation brings increasing of area of hemixerophylous East-Mediterranean *D. b. szczerbaki* and decreasing of distribution of mezophylous Colchian species – *D. derjugini*. Necessary to note the pulsation of lizard's areas was observed on the periphery of some species distribution. For example it was described earlier by A. Tzellarius for *Mesalina guttulata* in Badkhyz (Turkmenistan).

Key words: Caucasus, lizards, areas pulsation