



The Herpetological Collection of the Regional Natural History Museum – Plovdiv (Bulgaria)

**Sinem S. Mehmedali^{1*}, Teodor D. Chetalbashev¹,
Ivelin A. Mollov²**

1- Regional Natural History Museum – Plovdiv, Hristo G. Danov Str. 34, BG-4000
Plovdiv, BULGARIA

2 – University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”, Faculty of Biology, Department of
Ecology and Environmental Conservation, 24 Tzar Assen Str., BG-4000 Plovdiv,
BULGARIA

* - Corresponding author: sinemehmedali@gmail.com
<https://orcid.org/0009-0008-5395-5827>

Abstract. The herpetological collection of the Regional Natural History Museum of Plovdiv dates from 1960 till now (2025). A total of 61 species with 362 specimens of amphibians and reptiles, belonging to 17 families, were collected and inventoried. An updated list of all species and specimens with their collection data is provided.

Keywords: Amphibia, biodiversity, herpetology, Reptilia, taxonomy, wet preparations

Introduction

A major issue facing modern biological collections is their fragmentation. This is particularly evident in the small research collections maintained by individual laboratories. It is common for researchers who manage these local collections not to inform the wider scientific community about the specimens they hold. It is important to note that some research biological collections can be very large. For instance, natural history museums and herbaria often hold large amount of specimens and are heavily used in scientific research (Kamenski *et al.*, 2016).

Globally museums contain an enormous assortment of biological specimens that has been accumulated over many years. These collections, along with the taxonomic and systematic

studies connected to them, have benefited from substantial and sustained public support (Pyke & Ehrlich, 2010).

The amphibian and reptile collection of the Regional Natural History Museum of Plovdiv was established in 1960 and continued to expand during the years to the present day. The purpose of this publication is to document the herpetological collection of the Regional Natural History Museum – Plovdiv and to provide an overview of the amphibian and reptile species recorded in Bulgaria and their representation in the museum over a 65-year timeframe, offering valuable reference information for specialists in the field. Previous work has already catalogued the ichthyological collection of the museum (Vladov, 2016), and the present study extends this effort to amphibians and reptiles.

Material and methods

The inventory records of the collection were digitized and subsequently analyzed. Species identification was conducted based on external morphological traits and followed established taxonomic references, including Brain (2004), Biserkov *et al.* (2007), Charruau *et al.* (2015), Speybroeck *et al.* (2016). Additional comparative and nomenclatural information was verified through the international databases AmphibiaWeb (2024), The Reptile Database (Uetz *et al.*, 2024) and the Catalogue of Life (Bánki *et al.*, 2025). Each specimen in the catalogue is

presented with its inventory code (written in Cyrillic using the abbreviation PIIHM3B1), locality, collector, and date of acquisition. All identified taxa were cross-checked against these sources to ensure classification accuracy and up-to-date nomenclature. For easier representation of the data the UTM codes for the known localities are also given (Lerer & Delchev, 1978).

Results and Discussion

The complete list of the 59 species and 360 specimens of amphibians and reptiles, represented by both wet and dry preparations and accompanied by full collection data, is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Catalogue of the herpetological collection of the Regional Natural History Museum – Plovdiv.

Species	Collection Code	Sam- ples	Date	Locality	UTM	Collector
Family Salamandridae						
<i>Salamandra salamandra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	PIIHMPIB3B26	1	17.7.1972	22.05.1960, Rhodope Mountains, “Er Kyupriya”	LG23	P. Angelov
<i>Salamandra salamandra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	PIIHMPIB3B27	1	17.7.1972	22.10.1957, Parvomay	LG56	P. Angelov
<i>Salamandra salamandra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	PIIHMPIB3B28	1	17.7.1972	16.10.1960, Balkan Mountains, “V. Levski” Hut	LH23	P. Angelov
<i>Salamandra salamandra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	PIIHMPIB3B29	1	17.7.1972	22.05.1960, Rhodope Mountains, “Er Kyupriya”	LG23	P. Angelov
<i>Salamandra salamandra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	PIIHMPIB3B30	1	17.7.1972	16.10.1960, Rhodope Mountains, Mt. Ruen, “Glavata” locality	LG15	P. Angelov
<i>Salamandra salamandra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	PIIHMPIB3B44	1	17.7.1972	14.06.1962, Rhodope Mountains	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Salamandra salamandra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	PIIHMPIB3B45	1	n/a	07.07.1964, Rhodope Mountains	n/a	B. Kalchev

<i>Salamandra salamandra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПБ3B46	1	n/a	24.09.1963, Rhodope Mountains, Velingrad	GM45	Hr. Tabakov
<i>Salamandra salamandra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПБ3B79	1	9.10.1972	20.09.1972, village of Sarnitsa	KG52	Zl. Sabeva
<i>Salamandra salamandra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПБ3B80	1	9.10.1972	20.09.1972, village of Sarnitsa	KG52	I. Basamakov
<i>Triturus cristatus</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПБ3B31	1	17.7.1972	16.12.1957, village of Komatevo	LG16	n/a
<i>Triturus cristatus</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПБ3B33	1	17.7.1972	03.11.1963, Plovdiv, “Ostrova” area	LG16	B. Kalchev
<i>Triturus cristatus</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПБ3B34	1	17.7.1972	16.12.1957, village of Komatevo, Plovdiv region	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Triturus cristatus</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПБ3B36	1	17.7.1972	29.07.1958, Karlovo, Plovdiv region	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Triturus cristatus</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПБ3B37	1	8.8.1971	05.05.1971, village of Parvenets	LG06	T. Petrov
<i>Triturus macedonicus</i> (Karaman, 1922)	РПНМПБ3B94	1		n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Triturus dobrogicus</i> (Kiritzescu, 1903)	РПНМПБ3B93	1		n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПБ3B35	1	17.7.1972	16.12.1957, village of Komatevo, Plovdiv region	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПБ3B38	1	8.8.1971	05.05.1971, village of Parvenets	LG06	T. Petrov
<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПБ3B39	1	8.8.1971	05.05.1971, village of Parvenets	LG06	T. Petrov
<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПБ3B42	2	17.7.1972	07.05.1962, Momchilgrad	LG69	B. Kalchev
<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПБ3B43	2	17.7.1972	07.05.1962, Momchilgrad	LG69	B. Kalchev
<i>Mesotriton alpestris</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПБ3B32	1	17.7.1972	03.06.1962, “V. Kolarov” Reservoir, Rhodope Mountains	KG53	Nikola Bazarski
<i>Mesotriton alpestris</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПБ3B40	2	17.7.1972	14.07.1971, Urdina River	FM97	Hr. Tabakov
<i>Mesotriton alpestris</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПБ3B41	2	17.7.1972	14.07.1971, Urdina River	FM97	I. Basamakov
<i>Mesotriton alpestris</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПБ3B63	1	8.7.1966	22.06.1966, Smolyan Lakes	LG00	I. Basamakov

<i>Mesotriton alpestris</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B91	1	1.12.2010	08.2010, Smolyan Lakes	LG00	I. Basamakov
<i>Mesotriton alpestris</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B92	1	1.12.2010	08.2010, Smolyan Lakes	LG00	n/a
Family Proteidae						
<i>Proteus anguinus</i> Laurenti, 1768	РПНМПв3B85	2	7.6.1985	Yugoslavia	n/a	Vladimir Nikolov Tsenov
Family Bombinatoridae						
<i>Bombina bombina</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)	РПНМПв3B12	1	17.7.1972	02.10.1960, Plovdiv “Ostrova” area	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Bombina bombina</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)	РПНМПв3B57	1	17.7.1972	16.10.1962, village of Vasil Levski	LH21	B. Kalchev
<i>Bombina variegata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B2	1	17.7.1972	29.05.1960, village of Parvenets, Plovdiv region	LG06	P. Angelov
<i>Bombina variegata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B3	1	17.7.1972	28.02.1960, Balkan Mountains above Kalofer	LH32	P. Angelov
<i>Bombina variegata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B48	1	17.7.1972	11.05.1958, village of Komatevo	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Bombina variegata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B53	1	17.7.1972	29.05.1960, village of Parvenets, Plovdiv region	LG06	B. Kalchev
<i>Bombina variegata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B65	1	8.7.1966	25.06.1960, Rila Mountains	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Bombina variegata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B67	1	8.7.1966	28.08.1960, Balkan Mountains	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Bombina variegata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B69	1	8.7.1966	19.05.1960, town of Peshtera	KG75	P. Angelov
Family Bufonidae						
<i>Bufo bufo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B19	1	17.7.1972	29.08.1960, above Karlovo, Balkan Mountains	LH22	P. Angelov
<i>Bufo bufo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B58	1	17.7.1972	09.07.1963, town of Hisar (Hisarya)	LH10	B. Kalchev
<i>Bufo bufo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B64	1	8.7.1966	31.05.1960, Plovdiv “Ostrova” area	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Bufo bufo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B66	1	8.7.1966	29.08.1960, Balkan Mountains	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Bufo bufo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B72	1	9.10.1963	09.02.1963, village of Manole, Plovdiv region	LG72	B. Kalchev
<i>Bufo bufo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B73	1	9.10.1963	10.06.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	B. Kalchev
<i>Bufo bufo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B74	1	9.10.1963	21.09.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Bufo bufo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B75	1	9.10.1963	French College	n/a	n/a

<i>Bufo bufo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B77	1	9.10.1963	French College	n/a	n/a
<i>Bufo bufo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B96	1		n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Bufo bufo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B4	1	17.7.1972	29.10.1960, Plovdiv “Ostrova” area	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Bufo viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B6	1	17.7.1972	07.09.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	G. Bachvarov
<i>Bufo viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B8	1	17.7.1972	19.06.1960, Ruen Hut, Rhodope Mountains	LG15	R. Angelova
Family Hylidae						
<i>Hyla arborea</i> complex	РПНМПв3B9	1	17.7.1972	29.07.1958, Karlovo	LH22	P. Angelov
<i>Hyla arborea</i> complex	РПНМПв3B59	1	5.10.1963	04.10.1963, Plovdiv, “Ostrova” area	LG16	B. Kalchev
Family Pelobatidae						
<i>Pelobates fuscus</i> Laurenti, 1768	РПНМПв3B7	1	2.9.1963	19.10.1962, village of Garvan, Ruen region	MJ98	E. Undjinyan
<i>Pelobates syriacus</i> Boettger, 1889	РПНМПв3B10	1	17.7.1972	21.10.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Pelobates syriacus</i> Boettger, 1889	РПНМПв3B95	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Family Ranidae						
<i>Rana dalmatina</i> Fitzinger in Bonaparte, 1838	РПНМПв3B18	1	17.7.1972	04.10.1961, Plovdiv, DRS	LG16	B. Kalchev
<i>Rana dalmatina</i> Fitzinger in Bonaparte, 1838	РПНМПв3B21	1	17.7.1972	19.05.1960, Peshtera	KG75	P. Angelov
<i>Rana dalmatina</i> Fitzinger in Bonaparte, 1838	РПНМПв3B24	1	8.8.1971	05.05.1971, village of Parvenets	LG06	T. Petrov
<i>Rana dalmatina</i> Fitzinger in Bonaparte, 1838	РПНМПв3B25	1	8.8.1971	05.05.1971, village of Parvenets	LG06	T. Petrov
<i>Rana dalmatina</i> Fitzinger in Bonaparte, 1838	РПНМПв3B55	1	17.7.1972	20.04.1961, Plovdiv	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Rana dalmatina</i> Fitzinger in Bonaparte, 1838	РПНМПв3B88	1	1.12.2010	above the ravine near Kresna Inn	M72	O. Todorov, G. Popgeorgiev
<i>Rana dalmatina</i> Fitzinger in Bonaparte, 1838	РПНМПв3B89	1	1.12.2010	Chukarska River, Muglenishka River	n/a	G. Popgeorgiev
<i>Rana dalmatina</i> Fitzinger in Bonaparte, 1838	РПНМПв3B90	1	1.12.2010	Chukarska River, Muglenishka River	n/a	G. Popgeorgiev
<i>Rana temporaria</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B1	1	17.7.1972	27.06.1960, Vitosha Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Rana temporaria</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B16	1	17.7.1972	29.07.1958, Karlovo, Balkan Mountains	LH22	P. Angelov

<i>Rana temporaria</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПБ3B22	1	17.7.1972	09.08.1960, Rila Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Rana temporaria</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПБ3B49	1	17.7.1972	25.06.1960, Rila Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Rana temporaria</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПБ3B50	1	17.7.1972	27.06.1960, Vitosha Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Rana temporaria</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПБ3B51	1	17.7.1972	10.08.1960, Rila Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Rana temporaria</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПБ3B54	1	17.7.1972	09.08.1960, Rila Mountain	n/a	B. Kalchev
<i>Rana temporaria</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПБ3B60	1	5.10.1963	22.05.1960, Rhodope Mountains	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Rana temporaria</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПБ3B61	1	5.10.1963	09.08.1960, Rila Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Rana temporaria</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПБ3B62	1	5.10.1963	11.08.1960, Rila Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Rana temporaria</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПБ3B68	1	8.7.1966	28.08.1960, Central Balkan Mountains	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Lithobates</i> <i>catesbeianus</i> (Shaw, 1802)	РПНМПБ3B84	1	18.3.1983	Cuba	n/a	GUM, Plovdiv (State Universal Store, Plovdiv)
<i>Rana graeca</i> Boulenger, 1891	РПНМПБ3B5	1	9.10.1963	01.10.1963, village of Hrabrina	LG05	B. Kalchev
<i>Rana graeca</i> Boulenger, 1891	РПНМПБ3B15	1	17.7.1972	10.06.1960, village of Mostovo, Rhodope Mountains	LG23	P. Angelov
<i>Rana graeca</i> Boulenger, 1891	РПНМПБ3B47	1	n/a	01.10.1963, village of Hrabriho, Rhodope Mountains	LG05	B. Kalchev
<i>Rana graeca</i> Boulenger, 1891	РПНМПБ3B71	1	9.10.1963	01.10.1963, village of Hrabriho, Rhodope Mountains	LG05	B. Kalchev
<i>Rana graeca</i> Boulenger, 1891	РПНМПБ3B78	1	9.10.1972	12.09.1972, Sushitsa River	LG23	St. Stoychev
<i>Rana graeca</i> Boulenger, 1891	РПНМПБ3B87	1	1.12.2010	above the ravine near Kresna Inn	M72	O. Todorov, G. Popgeorgiev
<i>Rana sp.</i>	РПНМПБ3B76	1	9.10.1963	French College	n/a	n/a
<i>Pelophylax kl.</i> <i>esculentus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПБ3B13	1	17.7.1972	n/a	n/a	French College
<i>Pelophylax kl.</i> <i>esculentus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПБ3B23	1	17.7.1972	French College	n/a	n/a

<i>Pelophylax kl. esculentus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B81	2	17.11.1972	10.11.1972, village of Zagrazhden, Pleven district	LJ04	P. Popov
<i>Pelophylax kl. esculentus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B82	1	27.8.1976	n/a	n/a	P. Popov
<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i> (Pallas, 1771)	РПНМПв3B14	1	17.7.1972	10.06.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i> (Pallas, 1771)	РПНМПв3B17	1	17.7.1972	10.06.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i> (Pallas, 1771)	РПНМПв3B20	1	17.7.1972	16.12.1957, village of Komatevo	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i> (Pallas, 1771)	РПНМПв3B52	1	17.7.1972	22.04.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i> (Pallas, 1771)	РПНМПв3B56	1	17.7.1972	14.06.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	B. Kalchev
<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i> (Pallas, 1771)	РПНМПв3B70	1	13.3.1964	06.10.1964, village of Markovo, Plovdiv region	LG05	I. Basamakov
<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i> (Pallas, 1771)	РПНМПв3B86	1	10.9.2009	Harmanli	MG04	St. Kyurkchiev
<i>Rana catesbeiana</i> Shaw, 1802	РПНМПв3B83	1	18.3.1983	Cuba	n/a	GUM, Plovdiv (State Universal Store, Plovdiv)
Family Geoemydida						
<i>Mauremys rivulata</i> (Valenciennes, 1833)	РПНМПв3B183	1	24.9.1965	29.09.1964, Ivaylovgrad	MF29	I. Basamakov
<i>Mauremys rivulata</i> (Valenciennes, 1833)	РПНМПв3B191	1	30.10.1964	29.09.1964, Ivaylovgrad	MF29	I. Basamakov
<i>Mauremys rivulata</i> (Valenciennes, 1833)	РПНМПв3B197	1	30.10.1964	French College	n/a	n/a
<i>Mauremys rivulata</i> (Valenciennes, 1833)	РПНМПв3B178	1	24.9.1965	29.09.1964, Ivaylovgrad	MF29	I. Basamakov
<i>Batagur baska</i> (Gray, 1831)	РПНМПв3B214	1	18.3.1983	Cuba	n/a	GUM, Plovdiv (State Universal Store, Plovdiv)
Family Chelydridae						
<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i> (Troost, 1835)	РПНМПв3B201	1	30.10.1964	French College	n/a	Dimo Zhelev Radev
Family Emydidae						
<i>Trachemys callirostris</i> (Gray, 1856)	РПНМПв3B202	1	30.10.1964	French College	n/a	n/a

<i>Trachemys terrapen</i> (Bonnaterre, 1789)	РПНМПв3B215	1	18.3.1983	French College	n/a	Nikola Bazarski
<i>Emys orbicularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B179	1	30.10.1964	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Emys orbicularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B181	1	30.10.1964	20.05.1960, Krasnovo Mineral Baths	KH90	G. Bachvarov
<i>Emys orbicularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B184	1	30.10.1964	10.05.1957, Plovdiv	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Emys orbicularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B186	1	30.10.1964	23.07.1960, Krasnovo Mineral Baths	KH90	G. Bachvarov
<i>Emys orbicularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B188	1	30.10.1964	24.08.1962, Primorsko	NG68	B. Kalchev
<i>Emys orbicularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B196	1	30.10.1964	French College	n/a	n/a
<i>Emys orbicularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B235	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Emys orbicularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B180	1	30.10.1964	Krasnovo Mineral Baths	KH90	G. Bachvarov
<i>Emys sp.</i>	РПНМПв3B195	1	30.10.1964	French College	n/a	n/a
Family Testudinidae						
<i>Testudo hermanni</i> Gmelin, 1789	РПНМПв3B182	1	30.10.1964	30.05.1961, Kozhuh Mountain	n/a	n/a
<i>Testudo hermanni</i> Gmelin, 1789	РПНМПв3B185	1	30.10.1964	15.07.1960, Belogradchik	FP33	P. Angelov
<i>Testudo hermanni</i> Gmelin, 1789	РПНМПв3B193	1	30.10.1964	French College	n/a	G. Bachvarov
<i>Testudo hermanni</i> Gmelin, 1789	РПНМПв3B194	1	30.10.1964	French College	n/a	n/a
<i>Testudo graeca</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B187	1	30.10.1964	15.05.1960, Karlovo	LH22	n/a
<i>Testudo graeca</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B189	1	30.10.1964	30.05.1962, Kozhuh Mountain	n/a	B. Kalchev
<i>Testudo graeca</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B190	1	30.10.1964	30.05.1962, Kozhuh Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Testudo graeca</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B192	1	30.10.1964	French College	n/a	P. Angelov
Family Cheloniidae						
<i>Chelonia mydas</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B203	1	30.10.1964	French College	n/a	n/a
<i>Chelonia mydas</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B238	1		n/a	n/a	n/a
Family Iguanidae						
<i>Iguana iguana</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B206	1	n/a	French College	n/a	Cuban “Expo 81”
<i>Iguana iguana</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B207	1	12.9.1981	Cuba	n/a	G. Velchev Ginev
Family Phrynosomatidae						
<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i> (Harlan, 1825)	РПНМПв3B200	1	30.10.1964	French College	n/a	n/a
Family Agamidae						
<i>Draco volans</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B223	1	12.10.2010	30.10.2007, Captive-bred in Bulgaria	n/a	G. Popgeorgiev

<i>Uromastix acanthinura</i> Bell, 1825	РПНМПв3B198	1	30.10.1964	French College	n/a	n/a
<i>Uromastix acanthinura</i> Bell, 1825	РПНМПв3B233	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Uromastix acanthinura</i> Bell, 1825	РПНМПв3B234	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Uromastix aegyptia</i> (Forskål, 1775)	РПНМПв3B217	1	13.12.1985	Algeria	n/a	Rostislav
Family Chamaeleonidae						
<i>Chamaeleo vulgaris</i> Daudin, 1802	РПНМПв3B116	1	24.9.1965	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Chamaeleo vulgaris</i> Daudin, 1802	РПНМПв3B117	1	24.9.1965	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Chamaeleo vulgaris</i> Daudin, 1802	РПНМПв3B118	1	24.9.1965	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Chamaeleo calytratus</i> Duméril & Duméril, 1851	РПНМПв3B241	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Family Gekkonidae						
<i>Gekko gecko</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B222	1	24.9.2010	Captive-bred in Bulgaria	n/a	Rostislav Todorov
<i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B226	1	5.11.2010	Northern Greece, Logkargi	n/a	G. Popgeorgiev
<i>Mediodactylus kotschy</i> (Steindachner, 1870)	РПНМПв3B99	1	20.10.1960	18.06.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	n/a
<i>Mediodactylus kotschy</i> (Steindachner, 1870)	РПНМПв3B100	1	20.10.1960	12.09.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	n/a
<i>Mediodactylus kotschy</i> (Steindachner, 1870)	РПНМПв3B101	1	20.10.1960	30.03.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	n/a
<i>Mediodactylus kotschy</i> (Steindachner, 1870)	РПНМПв3B177	1	23.7.1971	19.07.1971, Asenovgrad	LG25	T. Petrov
<i>Mediodactylus kotschy</i> (Steindachner, 1870)	РПНМПв3B224	2	5.11.2010	20.09.2010, Plovdiv	LG16	O. Todorov
Family Anguidae						
<i>Pseudopus apodus</i> (Pallas, 1775)	РПНМПв3B112	1	24.9.1965	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Pseudopus apodus</i> (Pallas, 1775)	РПНМПв3B113	1	24.9.1965	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Pseudopus apodus</i> (Pallas, 1775)	РПНМПв3B114	1	24.9.1965	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Pseudopus apodus</i> (Pallas, 1775)	РПНМПв3B115	1	24.9.1965	13.06.1962, Primorsko, Burgas region	NG68	n/a
<i>Pseudopus apodus</i> (Pallas, 1775)	РПНМПв3B208	1	12.9.1981	09.1981, Rhodope Mountains, Ostr Kamak	MG03	Ginyu Velchev Ginev

<i>Pseudopus apodus</i> (Pallas, 1775)	РПНМПв3B221	1	23.9.2010	11.06.2010, Bliznak, Strandzha	NG26	I. Katrafilov
<i>Pseudopus apodus</i> (Pallas, 1775)	РПНМПв3B175	1	25.6.1971	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Pseudopus apodus</i> (Pallas, 1775)	РПНМПв3B176	1	25.6.1971	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Anguis fragilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B102	1	28.7.1965	08.07.1964, village of Boykovo, Rhodope Mts.	LG05	Hristo Tabakov
<i>Anguis fragilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B103	1	10.7.1969	05.07.1969, Presenk, Rhodope Mts.	KG93	n/a
<i>Anguis fragilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B104	1	24.9.1965	09.07.1964, village of Boykovo, Rhodope Mts.	LG05	Hristo Tabakov
<i>Anguis fragilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B105	1	24.9.1965	01.06.1965, Panagyurishte – “The Columns” area	KH60	P. Angelov
<i>Anguis fragilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B106	1	24.9.1965	02.05.1960, Asenovgrad	LG25	P. Angelov
<i>Anguis fragilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B107	1	24.9.1965	03.07.1961, Rila Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Anguis fragilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B108	1	24.9.1965	14.07.1960, village of Orehovo, Smolyan district	LG03	G. Bachvarov
<i>Anguis fragilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B109	1	24.9.1965	16.04.1960, Kotel	MH54	G. Bachvarov
<i>Anguis fragilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B110	1	24.9.1965	12.08.1958, Zdravets Hut, Rhodope Mts.	LG05	n/a
<i>Anguis fragilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B111	1	24.9.1965	29.07.1958, Karlovo, Balkan Mountains	LH22	P. Angelov
<i>Anguis fragilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B229	1	1.12.2010	Belasitsa, Popovo	LG16	n/a
Family Scincidae						
<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i> Bibron & Bory de Saint-Vincent, 1833	РПНМПв3B230	1	1.12.2010	13.06.2010, village of Rozino	LF57	n/a
<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i> Bibron & Bory de Saint-Vincent, 1833	РПНМПв3B119	1	30.5.1965	21.05.1965, Golo Bardo, Radomir region	FN71	n/a
<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i> Bibron & Bory de Saint-Vincent, 1833	РПНМПв3B120	1	30.5.1965	15.05.1965, Panichirovo	NG44	n/a
<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i> Bibron & Bory de Saint-Vincent, 1833	РПНМПв3B121	1	30.5.1965	15.04.1960, Kotel	MG03	G. Bachvarov
Family Lacertidae						
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B124	1	30.5.1965	19.03.1961, “9th September” Stadium, Plovdiv	LG16	n/a

<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B125	1	30.5.1965	22.05.1961, Asenovgrad	LG25	B. Kalchev
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B126	1	30.5.1965	19.03.1961, “9th September” Stadium, Plovdiv	LG16	B. Kalchev
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B127	1	30.5.1965	26.05.1960, town of Kalofer	LH32	P. Angelov
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B128	1	30.5.1965	19.03.1961, “9th September” Stadium, Plovdiv	LG16	Students
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B129	1	30.5.1965	19.03.1961, Plovdiv	LG16	n/a
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B130	1	30.5.1965	19.03.1961, “9th September” Stadium, Plovdiv	LG16	Students
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B131	1	30.5.1965	09.06.1957, Asenovgrad	LG25	P. Angelov
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B132	1	20.12.1961	19.07.1961, Plovdiv	LG16	n/a
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B133	1	20.12.1961	01.06.1961, “9th September” Stadium, Plovdiv	LG16	B. Kalchev
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B134	1	20.12.1961	04.07.1960, village of Kozanovo, Asenovgrad region	LG35	B. Kalchev
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B135	1	20.12.1961	26.05.1960, Perushitsa, Plovdiv region	KG95	B. Kalchev
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B136	1	20.12.1961	02.05.1960, Asenovgrad	LG25	P. Angelov
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B137	1	20.12.1961	n/a		n/a
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B138	1	20.12.1961	19.07.1961, “9th September” Stadium, Plovdiv	LG16	Students
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B140	1	20.12.1961	22.05.1961, Asenovgrad	LG25	n/a
<i>Lacerta viridis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B141	1	20.12.1961	19.04.1961, Plovdiv	LG16	n/a
<i>Lacerta trilineata</i> <i>major</i> Boulenger, 1887	РПНМПв3B122	1	30.5.1965	20.02.1957, Plovdiv	LG16	n/a
<i>Lacerta trilineata</i> <i>major</i> Boulenger, 1887	РПНМПв3B209	1	12.9.1981	09.1981, Rhodope Mountains, village of Borovo	LG23	Zoo Corner Plovdiv
<i>Lacerta agilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B123	1	30.5.1965	19.06.1960, Ruen Hut, Rhodope Mountains	LG15	P. Angelov
<i>Lacerta agilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B139	1	20.12.1961	15.05.1960, Karlovo	LH22	P. Angelov
<i>Lacerta agilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B153	1	20.12.1961	27.06.1960, above 1800 m, Vitosha Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov

<i>Lacerta agilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B154	1	20.12.1961	27.06.1960, above 1800 m, Vitosha Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Lacerta agilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B155	1	20.12.1961	27.06.1960, above 1800 m, Vitosha Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Lacerta agilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B156	1	20.12.1961	26.06.1961, "Er Kyupriya" locality, Rhodope Mountains	LG23	P. Angelov
<i>Lacerta agilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B157	1	20.12.1961	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Lacerta agilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B158	1	20.12.1961	27.06.1960, Vitosha Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Lacerta agilis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B159	1	20.12.1961	02.08.1960, Vitosha Mountain	n/a	n/a
<i>Zootoca vivipara</i> (Lichtenstein, 1823)	РПНМПв3B228	1	1.12.2010	Mt. Botev	LH23	G. Popgeorgiev
<i>Zootoca vivipara</i> (Lichtenstein, 1823)	РПНМПв3B142	1	20.12.1961	27.06.1960, above 1800 m, Vitosha Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Zootoca vivipara</i> (Lichtenstein, 1823)	РПНМПв3B143	1	20.12.1961	27.06.1960, Vitosha Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Zootoca vivipara</i> (Lichtenstein, 1823)	РПНМПв3B144	1	20.12.1961	27.06.1960, Vitosha Mountain	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Darevskia praticola</i> <i>pontica</i> (Lantz & Cyrén, 1918)	РПНМПв3B173	1	20.9.1963	15.05.1963, Isperih Forest	MJ84	B. Kalchev
<i>Darevskia praticola</i> <i>pontica</i> (Lantz & Cyrén, 1918)	РПНМПв3B174	1	20.9.1963	16.05.1963, Samuil railway station	MJ71	B. Kalchev
<i>Podarcis muralis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B227	1	1.12.2010	Chukarska River	n/a	G. Popgeorgiev , O. Todorov
<i>Podarcis muralis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B145	1	20.12.1961	09.08.1957, Plovdiv	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Podarcis muralis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B146	1	20.12.1961	19.06.1960, above 1250 m, Rhodope Mountains	n/a	P. Angelov
<i>Podarcis muralis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B147	1	20.12.1961	28.04.1961, Asenovgrad	LG25	P. Angelov
<i>Podarcis muralis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B148	1	20.12.1961	22.05.1960, "Er Kyupriya", Rhodope Mountains	LG23	P. Angelov
<i>Podarcis muralis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B149	1	20.12.1961	28.04.1961, Asenovgrad	LG25	P. Angelov
<i>Podarcis muralis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B150	1	20.12.1961	05.07.1957, Asenovgrad	LG25	P. Angelov
<i>Podarcis muralis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B151	1	20.12.1961	02.04.1961, Ruen Hut, Rhodope Mountains	LG15	P. Angelov
<i>Podarcis muralis</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B152	1	20.12.1961	26.06.1961, "Er Kyupriya", Rhodope Mountains	LG23	P. Angelov

<i>Podarcis tauricus</i> (Pallas, 1814)	РПНМПв3B160	1	20.12.1961	21.02.1963, Plovdiv, near Maritsa River	LG16	B. Kalchev
<i>Podarcis tauricus</i> (Pallas, 1814)	РПНМПв3B161	1	20.12.1961	14.06.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Podarcis tauricus</i> (Pallas, 1814)	РПНМПв3B162	1	20.12.1961	03.05.1961, Stara Zagora	LG89	P. Angelov
<i>Podarcis tauricus</i> (Pallas, 1814)	РПНМПв3B163	1	20.12.1961	03.05.1961, Stara Zagora	LG89	P. Angelov
<i>Podarcis tauricus</i> (Pallas, 1814)	РПНМПв3B164	1	20.9.1963	19.03.1961, “9th September” Stadium, Plovdiv	LG16	Students
<i>Podarcis tauricus</i> (Pallas, 1814)	РПНМПв3B165	1	20.9.1963	14.06.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Podarcis tauricus</i> (Pallas, 1814)	РПНМПв3B166	1	20.9.1963	03.05.1961, Stara Zagora	LG89	P. Angelov
<i>Podarcis tauricus</i> (Pallas, 1814)	РПНМПв3B167	1	20.9.1963	19.05.1960, Peshtera	KG75	P. Angelov
<i>Podarcis tauricus</i> (Pallas, 1814)	РПНМПв3B168	1	20.9.1963	19.03.1961, “9th September” Stadium, Plovdiv	LG16	B. Kalchev
<i>Podarcis tauricus</i> (Pallas, 1814)	РПНМПв3B169	1	20.9.1963	08.08.1961, near Piasachnik River	LG17	B. Kalchev
<i>Podarcis tauricus</i> (Pallas, 1814)	РПНМПв3B170	1	20.9.1963	19.03.1961, “9th September” Stadium, Plovdiv	LG16	Students
<i>Podarcis tauricus</i> (Pallas, 1814)	РПНМПв3B171	1	20.9.1963	14.06.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	B. Kalchev
<i>Podarcis tauricus</i> (Pallas, 1814)	РПНМПв3B172	1	20.9.1963	18.10.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	P. Angelov
<i>Podarcis siculus</i> (Rafinesque- Schmaltz, 1810)	РПНМПв3B220	1	23.9.2010	12.05.2008, Italy, Capri Island, Ana Capri	n/a	G. Popgeorgiev
<i>Ophisops elegans</i> Ménétries, 1832	РПНМПв3B231	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Family Varanidae						
<i>Varanus griseus</i> (Daudin, 1803)	РПНМПв3B199	1	30.10.1964	French College	n/a	
Family Typhlopidae						
<i>Xerotyphlops</i> <i>vermicularis</i> (Merrem, 1820)	РПНМПв3B313	1	8.9.1977	04.07.1977, village of Ostr Kamak	MG03	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Xerotyphlops</i> <i>vermicularis</i> (Merrem, 1820)	РПНМПв3B314	1	8.9.1977	04.07.1977, village of Ostr Kamak	MG03	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Xerotyphlops</i> <i>vermicularis</i> (Merrem, 1820)	РПНМПв3B352	1	1.12.2010	12.05.2010, village of Stara Kresna	FM82	G. Popgeorgiev , O. Todorov
Family Erycidae						
<i>Eryx jaculus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B301	1	30.7.1966	French College	n/a	n/a
<i>Eryx jaculus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B324	1	18.5.1978	11.05.1978, village of Manolovo, Stara Zagora district	LH42	Ginyu G. Ginev

<i>Eryx jaculus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B348	1	5.11.2010	10.09.2010, Asenova Fortress	LG25	G. Popgeorgiev , O. Todorov
Family Boidae						
<i>Chilabothrus angulifer</i> (Cocteau & Bibron, 1840)	РПНМПв3B342	1	12.9.1981	Cuba	n/a	Cuban “Expo 81”
<i>Eunectes murinus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B308	1	30.5.1953	French College	n/a	
Family Pythonidae						
<i>Python regius</i> (Shaw, 1802)	РПНМПв3B344	1	21.1.2008	Private collection	n/a	Rostislav
<i>Malayopython reticulatus</i> (Schneider, 1801)	РПНМПв3B306	1	31.3.1972	French College	n/a	n/a
<i>Malayopython reticulatus</i> (Schneider, 1801)	РПНМПв3B307	1	31.3.1972	French College	n/a	n/a
Family Natricidae						
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B242	1	25.7.1966	06.07.1964, village of Belasitsa	LG16	I. Basamakov
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B243	1	25.7.1966	06.07.1964, village of Belasitsa	LG16	I. Basamakov
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B244	1	n/a	03.05.1963, Plovdiv, Maritsa River	LG16	n/a
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B245	1	28.7.1965	05.06.1964, Plovdiv, “Ostrova” area	LG16	Hr. Tabakov
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B246	1	28.7.1965	14.04.1964, Plovdiv	LG16	Hr. Tabakov
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B247	1	28.7.1965	14.04.1964, Plovdiv	LG16	Hr. Tabakov
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B248	1	28.7.1965	14.04.1964, Plovdiv	LG16	Hr. Tabakov
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B249	1	4.4.1964	02.04.1964, Plovdiv, “Pravata Voda” locality	LG16	Hr. Tabakov
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B273	1	25.6.1971	03.05.1971, village of Parvenets	LGO6	T. Petrov
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B274	1	25.6.1971	04.04.1971, village of Ruzhevo Konare	LG18	I. Pintiev
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B281	1	3.8.1971	02.06.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	n/a
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B284	1	3.8.1971	24.04.1962, Plovdiv	LG16	n/a
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B285	1	3.8.1971	24.04.1962, Plovdiv	LG16	n/a
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B286	1	3.8.1971	06.10.1962, village of Gradina, Parvomay region	LG56	I. Kamenov

<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B292	1	30.7.1966	03.05.1963, Plovdiv, Maritsa River	LG16	n/a
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B311	1	27.8.1973	15.08.1973, DRS Plovdiv	LG16	Toty Minevski
<i>Natrix natrix</i> Linnaeus, 1758	РПНМПв3B351	1	1.12.2010	25.04.2010, Yagodovo	LG26	G. Popgeorgiev , O. Todorov
<i>Natrix tessellata</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B250	1	28.7.1965	25.07.1965, Chaya River, Asenovgrad	LG25	I. Basamakov
<i>Natrix tessellata</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B251	1	26.5.1965	10.05.1965, St. Elijah Heights, Yambol region	MG29	G. Ilkov
<i>Natrix tessellata</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B252	1	26.5.1965	20.07.1970, Plovdiv	LG16	n/a
<i>Natrix tessellata</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B272	1	25.6.1971	25.03.1971, village of Ustina, Plovdiv region	LG16	n/a
<i>Natrix tessellata</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B294	1	30.7.1966	French College		n/a
<i>Natrix tessellata</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B299	1	5.11.1963	03.11.1963, Plovdiv	LG16	B. Kalchev
<i>Natrix tessellata</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B330	1	26.9.1978	16.06.1978, village of Mazalat, Balkan Mountains, Gabrovnitsa River	LH43	T. Petrov
Family Colubridae						
<i>Dolichophis</i> <i>jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B264	1	26.5.1965	15.05.1965, Plovdiv	LG16	n/a
<i>Dolichophis</i> <i>jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B265	1	26.5.1965	17.05.1961, Plovdiv, DRS	LG16	I. Basamakov
<i>Dolichophis</i> <i>jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B266	1	20.7.1966	11.05.1964, Plovdiv	LG16	Hr. Tabakov
<i>Dolichophis</i> <i>jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B279	1	3.8.1971	11.10.1961, Plovdiv	LG16	
<i>Dolichophis</i> <i>jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B280	1	3.8.1971	23.06.1960, Plovdiv	LG16	I. Haitov
<i>Dolichophis</i> <i>jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B287	1	3.8.1971	18.09.1960, Asenovgrad	LG25	G. Bachvarov
<i>Dolichophis</i> <i>jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B288	1	3.8.1971	24.05.1961, Plovdiv	LG16	Ag. Todorov
<i>Dolichophis</i> <i>jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B289	1	8.10.1965	07.10.1965, village of Markovo, Plovdiv region	LG05	H. Myumyunov
<i>Dolichophis</i> <i>jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B290	1	8.10.1965	07.08.1958, Plovdiv, Maritsa River	LG16	P. Angelov

<i>Dolichophis jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B297	1	24.10.1963	23.09.1963, Plovdiv, "Prava Voda" locality	LG16	Hr. Tabakov
<i>Dolichophis jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B305	1	31.3.1972	09.03.1972, village of Orizari, Plovdiv region	LG06	B. Stoillov
<i>Dolichophis jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B309	1	30.5.1972	27.05.1972, village of Cherven	LG34	Kr. Shabanska
<i>Dolichophis jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B310	1	30.5.1972	27.05.1972, village of Cherven	LG34	Kr. Shabanska
<i>Dolichophis jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B321	1	21.5.1978	24.04.1978, village of Zlatosel	LG39	Kolyu Tanev Kolev
<i>Dolichophis jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B325	1	18.5.1978	04.05.1978, village of Chakalovo, Kardzhali region	LF57	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Dolichophis jugularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B337	1	13.6.1979	21.05.1979, village of Dimitriev, Stara Zagora district	LG87	Denyo Denev
<i>Lampropeltis polyzona</i> Cope, 1860	РПНМПв3B347	1	12.10.2010	n/a	n/a	Rostislav
<i>Platyceps najadum</i> (Eichwald, 1831)	РПНМПв3B271	1	20.7.1966	08.06.1970, village of Markovo	LG15	G. Vichev
<i>Platyceps najadum</i> (Eichwald, 1831)	РПНМПв3B283	1	3.8.1971	04.06.1961, Asenovgrad	LG25	G. Bachvarov
<i>Platyceps najadum</i> (Eichwald, 1831)	РПНМПв3B322	1	12.5.1978	20.04.1978, village of Chakalovo	LF57	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Platyceps najadum</i> (Eichwald, 1831)	РПНМПв3B336	1	14.5.1978	05.05.1979, Pirin Forest	n/a	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Platyceps collaris</i> (Müller, 1878)	РПНМПв3B357	1	24.8.2012	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Zamenis longissimus</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B267	1	8.10.1965	08.10.1965, village of Markovo, Plovdiv region	LG15	H. Myumyunov
<i>Zamenis longissimus</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B268	1	8.7.1966	06.1966, Etropole	GN44	Hr. Tabakov
<i>Zamenis longissimus</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B269	1	8.7.1966	06.1966, Etropole	GN44	Hr. Tabakov
<i>Zamenis longissimus</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B270	1	20.7.1966	14.07.1966, Rhodope Mountains, Ruen Hut	LG15	I. Basamakov
<i>Zamenis longissimus</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B275	1	25.6.1971	25.06.1971, Bachkovo	LG24	I. Basamakov
<i>Zamenis longissimus</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B282	1	3.8.1971	30.05.1961, village of Belashtitsa	LG16	Y. Pomakova

<i>Zamenis longissimus</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B300	1	30.7.1966	05.1966, Etropole	GN44	Hr. Tabakov
<i>Zamenis longissimus</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B320	1	22.9.1977	04.07.1977, village of Ostr Kamak	MG03	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Zamenis longissimus</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B343	1	11.7.1984	12.06.1989, Plovdiv	LG16	Vasilev
<i>Zamenis longissimus</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	РПНМПв3B346	1	23.9.2010	18.09.2010, Krichim	KG95	G. Popgeorgiev
<i>Elaphe sauromates</i> (Lacépède, 1789)	РПНМПв3B278	1	3.8.1971	01.12.1964, Yambol	MH50	Ya. Dimitrov
<i>Elaphe sauromates</i> (Lacépède, 1789)	РПНМПв3B334	1	14.5.1978	05.05.1979, Pirin Forest	n/a	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Elaphe sauromates</i> (Lacépède, 1789)	РПНМПв3B339	1	13.6.1979	20.05.1979, Pirin Forest	n/a	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Elaphe sauromates</i> (Lacépède, 1789)	РПНМПв3B312	1	18.7.1977	04.07.1977, village of Ostar Kamak	MG03	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Elaphe sauromates</i> (Lacépède, 1789)	РПНМПв3B323	1	12.5.1978	04.05.1978, village of Ostar Kamak	MG03	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Elaphe sauromates</i> (Lacépède, 1789)	РПНМПв3B326	1	5.6.1978	07.06.1978, village of Novo Selo, Plovdiv region	KG96	Toty Minevski
<i>Elaphe sauromates</i> (Lacépède, 1789)	РПНМПв3B328	1	5.6.1978	28.06.1978, village of Saedinenie, Stara Zagora region	LG69	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Elaphe sauromates</i> (Lacépède, 1789)	РПНМПв3B329	1	23.8.1978	07.06.1978, village of Novo Selo, Plovdiv region	KG96	T. Petrov
<i>Elaphe situla</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B332	1	14.5.1978	18.10.1978, Rupite Area, Kozhuh Hill, Petrich Region	FL89	T. Petrov
<i>Elaphe situla</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B338	1	13.6.1979	22.05.1979, village of Kresna	FM82	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Coronella austriaca</i> Laurenti, 1768	РПНМПв3B253	1	26.5.1965	21.05.1965, Golo Bardo, Sofia region	FN71	P. Angelov, B. Gruev
<i>Coronella austriaca</i> Laurenti, 1768	РПНМПв3B254	1	26.5.1965	08.07.1970, Sredna Gora, Kavakliska Hut	LH50	I. Basamakov
<i>Coronella austriaca</i> Laurenti, 1768	РПНМПв3B255	1	26.5.1965	29.05.1967, Rhodope Mts., village of Mostovo	LG23	D. Sandanski
<i>Coronella austriaca</i> Laurenti, 1768	РПНМПв3B296	1	24.10.1963	29.08.1960, Balkan Mountains, Mt. Botev	LH23	P. Angelov, B. Kalchev
<i>Coronella austriaca</i> Laurenti, 1768	РПНМПв3B318	1	8.9.1977	04.09.1977, Uzana Hut, Balkan Mountains	LH63	Ginyu G. Ginev

<i>Coronella austriaca</i> Laurenti, 1768	РПНМПв3B331	1	26.9.1978	28.06.1978, village of Saedinenie, Chirpan region	LG69	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Coronella austriaca</i> Laurenti, 1768	РПНМПв3B319	1	22.9.1977	04.09.1977, Uzana Hut, Balkan Mountains	LH63	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Coronella austriaca</i> Laurenti, 1768	РПНМПв3B345	1	23.8.2010	village of Parvenets, Plovdiv region	LG06	G. Popgeorgiev , O. Todorov
<i>Telescopus fallax</i> Fleischmann, 1831	РПНМПв3B356	1	24.8.2012	n/a	n/a	n/a
Family Psammophiidae						
<i>Malpolon</i> <i>insignitus</i> (Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1827)	РПНМПв3B353	1	1.12.2010	14.05.2010, village of Yavornitsa	FL78	G. Popgeorgiev , O. Todorov
<i>Malpolon</i> <i>insignitus</i> (Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1827)	РПНМПв3B354	1	1.12.2010	14.05.2010, village of Drangovo	LF57	G. Popgeorgiev , O. Todorov
<i>Malpolon</i> <i>insignitus</i> (Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1827)	РПНМПв3B304	1	21.10.1971	16.10.1971, Strandzha Mountain		I. Basamakov
<i>Malpolon</i> <i>insignitus</i> (Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1827)	РПНМПв3B335	1	14.5.1978	27.03.1979, Malko Tarnovo	NG44	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Malpolon</i> <i>insignitus</i> (Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1827)	РПНМПв3B340	1	29.3.1980	23.03.1980, village of Ostr Kamak	MG03	Ginyu G. Ginev
Family Dipsadidae						
<i>Heterodon nasicus</i> Baird & Girard, 1852	РПНМПв3B232	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Family Elapidae						
<i>Dendroaspis</i> <i>polylepis</i> Günther, 1864	РПНМПв3B359	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Dendroaspis</i> <i>polylepis</i> Günther, 1864	РПНМПв3B360	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Family Viperidae						
<i>Vipera berus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B276	1	17.6.1971	14.07.1971, Urdina River	FM97	I. Basamakov
<i>Vipera berus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B291	1	30.7.1966	29.06.1966, Rhodope Mountains, Mt. Snezhanka	LG01	I. Basamakov
<i>Vipera berus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B302	1	30.7.1966	1914, Tryavna	LH74	
<i>Vipera berus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B315	1	8.9.1977	04.09.1977, Uzana Hut, Balkan Mountains	LH63	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Vipera berus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B316	1	8.9.1977	04.09.1977, Uzana Hut, Balkan Mountains	LH63	Ginyu G. Ginev

<i>Vipera berus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B317	1	8.9.1977	04.09.1977, Uzana Hut, Balkan Mountains	LH63	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Vipera berus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B327	1	5.6.1978	20.06.1978, village of Mazalat, Balkan Mountains	LH43	Ginyu G. Ginev
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B256	1	26.5.1965	02.08.1970, Sredna Gora, Komsomolska Hut	GM49	I. Basamakov
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B257	1	26.5.1965	15.04.1960, Kotel	MH54	G. Bachvarov
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B258	1	26.5.1965	29.05.1967, Rhodope Mountains, village of Mostovo	LG23	D. Sandanski
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B259	1	28.7.1965	08.06.1965, Hisar (Hisarya)	LH10	P. Angelov
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B260	1	26.5.1965	21.05.1965, Golo Bardo, Radomir region	FN71	P. Angelov
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B261	1	30.5.1968	27.05.1968, village of Markovo, Plovdiv region	LG15	n/a
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B262	1	30.5.1968	25.07.1966, village of Brestovitsa	LG06	I. Basamakov
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B263	1	30.5.1968	28.06.1968, Vacha Cascade	KG84	K. Petrov
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B277	1	3.8.1971	28.06.1968, Vacha Cascade	KG84	K. Petrov
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B293	1	30.7.1966	27.05.1958, Asenovgrad	LG25	
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B295	1	24.10.1963	01.09.1963, Rhodope Mountains, village of Boykovo	LG05	P. Angelov
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B298	1	25.6.1965	22.06.1965, village of Dobrostan	LG16	I. Basamakov
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B333	1	14.5.1978	02.04.1979, Plovdiv	LG16	T. Petrov
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B349	1	5.11.2010	10.09.2010, Asenova Fortress	LG25	G. Popgeorgiev , O. Todorov
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B350	1	1.12.2010	28.01.2010, Topolovgrad	MG45	G. Popgeorgiev , O. Todorov
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B355	1	1.12.2010	23.04.2010, village of Ispirikhovo	KG86	G. Popgeorgiev , O. Todorov
<i>Macrovipera lebetinus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B358	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Family Alligatoridae						
<i>Caiman crocodilus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	РПНМПв3B236	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Family Crocodylidae						
<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i> Laurenti, 1768	РПНМПв3B204	1	30.10.1964	French College	n/a	n/a
<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i> Laurenti, 1768	РПНМПв3B205	1	30.10.1964	French College	n/a	n/a
<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i> Laurenti, 1768	РПНМПв3B216	1	22.11.1985	Congo	n/a	Boris Stoillov
<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i> Laurenti, 1768	РПНМПв3B218	1	21.1.2008	Private collection	n/a	Dr. Dilyan Georgiev
<i>Crocodylus palustris</i> Lesson, 1831	РПНМПв3B210	1	4.2.1983	10.1982, Kampuchea (Cambodia)	n/a	Cuban “Expo 81”
<i>Crocodylus rhombifer</i> Cuvier, 1807	РПНМПв3B211	1	28.2.1983	19.01.1983, Zoo Corner Plovdiv	n/a	GUM, Plovdiv (State Universal Store, Plovdiv)
<i>Crocodylus rhombifer</i> Cuvier, 1807	РПНМПв3B212	1	18.3.1983	Cuba	n/a	GUM, Plovdiv (State Universal Store, Plovdiv)
<i>Crocodylus rhombifer</i> Cuvier, 1807	РПНМПв3B213	1	18.3.1983	Cuba	n/a	GUM, Plovdiv (State Universal Store, Plovdiv)
<i>Crocodylus rhombifer</i> Cuvier, 1807	РПНМПв3B341	1	12.9.1981	Cuba	n/a	Cuban “Expo 81”
species unidentified	РПНМПв3B237	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	I. Basamakov
species unidentified	РПНМПв3B239	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
species unidentified	РПНМПв3B240	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
species unidentified	РПНМПв3B303	1	30.7.1966	French College	n/a	n/a
species unidentified	РПНМПв3B361	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
species unidentified	РПНМПв3B362	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Frog skeleton	РПНМПв3B97	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Frog skeleton	РПНМПв3B98	1	24.9.1965	n/a	n/a	n/a

From the Bulgarian amphibian species in the herpetological collection of the Regional Natural History Museum – Plovdiv, a total of 72 specimens have been analyzed, belonging to 6 families and 13 clearly identified species. The family Bombinatoridae is represented by two species – *B. bombina* and *B. variegata*, with a total of 10 specimens.

B. bombina is documented with three individuals, mainly from urbanized and lowland areas, while *B. variegata* – with 7 specimens – was collected from higher altitudes and diverse habitats (Rila, Stara Planina, Peshtera), highlighting its greater ecological plasticity.

The family Bufonidae includes 13 specimens, represented by *Bufo bufo*

(11 individuals), collected over a wide time span (1957–1963) from various sites in the Plovdiv region, and two specimens of *Bufo viridis*, which demonstrates sympatric distribution and adaptability to anthropogenic and semi-natural landscapes.

The family Hylidae is represented by 2 specimens from the *H. arborea* complex, collected in Karlovo and in the Plovdiv area (“The Island”). Although sparsely represented, the species is important due to its sensitivity to environmental changes.

The family Pelobatidae is represented by 3 specimens, including *P. fuscus* (1 individual) and *P. syriacus* (2 individuals). The presence of these rare and cryptic taxa is of particular significance, as they inhabit specific, often threatened habitats and confirm the conservation value of the museum collection.

The family Ranidae exhibits the greatest species and numerical diversity – a total of 37 specimens from 6 species: *Pelophylax kl. esculentus* (4 individuals), *P. ridibundus* (7), *R. dalmatina* (8), *R. graeca* (6), *R. temporaria* (11), as well as one unidentified representative (*Rana* sp.). The species richness and broad geographic coverage (Rila, Vitosha, Rhodopes, Stara Planina, etc.) reflect both accessibility and scientific interest in this group.

The family Salamandridae is the second richest family, with 27 specimens distributed among *L. vulgaris* (5), *M. alpestris* (6), *S. salamandra* (10), *T. ivanbureschi* (5), and a single specimen of *T. dobrogicus*. The represented habitats – from the Rhodopes and the Smolyan Lakes to the Plovdiv region – testify to deliberate effort in collecting and documenting the taxonomic and ecological diversity of Bulgarian herpetofauna.

The collection provides a valuable archive of historical, scientific, and conservation significance. The earliest

specimens date from 1957, and the most recent – from 2010, marking over five decades of field and museum accumulation. Despite the uneven representation of some species, the wealth of data in terms of taxonomy, geography, and chronology gives the collection high research, educational, and museum value.

Among the reptiles, the family Anguidae is represented by two species – *A. fragilis* (11 specimens) and *P. apodus* (8 specimens), collected over a period of more than five decades (1958–2010). The specimens originate from diverse regions of Bulgaria, including the Rhodopes (Boykovo village, Zdravets hut, Persenk, Ostar Kamak), Stara Planina (Karlovo, Kotel), Rila, Belasitsa, as well as from low-mountain and transitional zones such as Panagyurishte, Asenovgrad, and the area of Primorsko and Strandzha. This spatial and temporal heterogeneity reflects targeted field effort and broad geographic coverage of the collection activities. The documented localities from geographically and ecologically distinct regions – from Strandzha and Belasitsa to inland mountain massifs – highlight the richness and applicability of the collection for studying the distribution and adaptive capacities of reptiles.

The three specimens of *E. jaculus*, representing the family Boidae, have high conservation significance, as the species is localized in southern Bulgaria and is of particular conservation interest. Its inclusion in the museum collection contributes to preserving data on this rarely encountered species.

The family Colubridae is the most extensively represented in the collection – comprising a total of 74 specimens distributed among 13 clearly identified species and 2 subspecific taxa. The most numerous are *D. caspius* and *N. natrix*, each with 16 specimens, followed by *Z. longissimus* (10 specimens) and

C. austriaca (8 specimens), which together form the core of the family's representation. Species with lower specimen counts were also found, such as *P. najadum* (4 specimens), *E. sauromates* (5 specimens), *N. tessellata* (7 specimens), as well as single representatives of less frequently documented taxa – *Zamenis situla*, *P. collaris*, and *T. fallax*. The broad species presence and diversity of ecological types underscore the importance of Colubridae for assessing the biogeographic characteristics and the condition of Bulgaria's reptile fauna.

The family Emydidae is represented by 9 specimens, of which 8 belong to *E. orbicularis*, and one has an undetermined species identity (*Emys* sp.). The presence of this hydrophilic species in the museum collection reflects the effort to document species closely associated with aquatic environments and highlights the significance of freshwater habitats as objects of scientific and conservation interest.

The family Lacertidae is among the best represented in the collection, with a total of 58 specimens distributed among 9 species and 2 subspecific taxa. The most numerous are *L. viridis* (17 specimens) and *P. tauricus* (13 specimens), typical of open, grassy, and submontane habitats. *P. muralis* is represented by 9 specimens. Other documented species include *L. agilis* (9 specimens), *Z. vivipara* (4 specimens), *P. siculus* (1 specimen), *P. erhardii* (1 specimen), and *O. elegans* (1 specimen). The diversity of species and localities within Lacertidae demonstrates the high lizard species richness in Bulgaria and provides a reliable basis for analyzing their contemporary and historical distribution.

The family Psammophiidae is represented in the collection by 5 specimens of *Malpolon insignitus* – a

species typical of open, dry, and sun-exposed habitats in southern and southeastern Bulgaria. Its presence in the collection indicates interest in poorly documented representatives of thermophilous reptile fauna. As an active, diurnal, and fast-moving species, *M. insignitus* is relatively difficult to capture in the field, which highlights the substantial field effort behind its inclusion. The collected specimens contribute to improving the understanding of the species' ecological preferences and geographic range in Bulgaria.

The family Scincidae is represented by 4 specimens of *Ablepharus kitaibelii* – a species that, due to its minute size, secretive lifestyle, and characteristic metallic sheen, often goes unnoticed during field surveys. Its presence in the museum collection testifies to targeted efforts to encompass the less conspicuous components of reptile fauna and underscores the importance of long-term and careful monitoring for establishing species and ecological diversity in a national context.

The family Testudinidae is represented in the collection by 8 specimens, evenly divided between Bulgaria's two widespread tortoise species – *Testudo hermanni* and *T. graeca*. Both species inhabit mainly dry, open, and warm habitats in the southern and southeastern parts of the country and are subject to heightened conservation concern due to their sensitivity to anthropogenic pressure, habitat loss, and illegal collection. The presence of specimens of both species in the museum collection provides a foundation for retrospective analyses of spatial distribution and long-term population stability, as well as for assessing the impact of climatic and anthropogenic changes on habitat dynamics of these long-lived species.

The family Typhlopidae is represented in the museum collection by 3 specimens of *Xerotyphlops vermicularis* – an evolutionarily adapted subterranean species characterized by rudimentary vision, a cylindrical body, and a fossorial lifestyle. Due to its highly cryptic ecology and low detection probability during standard field surveys, the species rarely finds its way into scientific collections. The preserved specimens provide a valuable basis for morphological and biogeographic studies aimed at determining the actual distribution and ecological requirements of this little-known species.

The family Viperidae is represented in the collection by 23 specimens belonging to the two venomous snake species naturally occurring in Bulgaria – *Vipera ammodytes* (16 specimens) and *V. berus* (7 specimens). Both species hold high conservation value and play a key role in local ecosystems as predators. Documenting representatives of Viperidae in the museum collection is of substantial importance for future toxinological, biogeographic, and conservation research, while also providing a basis for educational activities and public awareness regarding safe coexistence with these often misunderstood species.

The exotic component of the herpetological collection at the Regional Natural History Museum – Plovdiv represents an important additional section with high educational, exhibition, and comparative-scientific value. With its 55 specimens encompassing 21 families from both classes (Amphibia and Reptilia), this part of the collection expands the museum's taxonomic and biogeographic scope beyond the boundaries of Bulgaria's native herpetofauna. The presence of species from four continents – including emblematic representatives such as the Nile crocodile, the ball python, the green sea turtle, and the green iguana – turns the

collection into a distinctive window toward global biodiversity. Its role lies not only in the preservation of rare and valuable specimens but also in supporting conservation awareness and cross-cultural scientific dialogue, contributing to the development of broader ecological literacy and an understanding of the planetary significance of herpetological heritage.

The French College “St. Augustine” (Le Collège St. Augustin), which operated in Plovdiv until the mid-20th century, is one of the primary early donors to the museum's herpetological collection. The collection contains at least 25 specimens originating from the college's natural history exhibition. Their contribution has permanently enriched the taxonomic and zoogeographic diversity of the museum holdings, including rare and exotic species such as the Nile crocodile (*C. niloticus*), the green sea turtle (*C. mydas*), the anaconda (*E. murinus*), and the green iguana (*I. iguana*), which today represent not only scientific and exhibition interest but also a cultural-historical link to the formation of the museum's collecting tradition.

A comprehensive SWOT analysis was conducted with the aim of providing a strategic assessment of the status, opportunities, and threats facing the herpetological collection. During the meeting held on 7 May 2025 at the Regional Natural History Museum – Plovdiv, four groups of factors were identified, encompassing both the internal structure of the collection and the external environment in which the SWOT analyses operates.

Among the strengths noted were: the rich taxonomic diversity, including representatives of all genera of Bulgaria's herpetofauna; the considerable number of specimens with proven scientific, historical, and educational value; the presence of rare preparations and exhibits with high

exhibition appeal (such as an 8.5 m green anaconda and a cobra biting a mongoose); and the existing potential for participation in national and international projects. Particular emphasis was placed on the collection's involvement in educational initiatives such as the "Amphibian Festival," as well as on the development of models for travelling exhibitions.

The weaknesses identified included the lack of a complete digital database, an unsystematized inventory of part of the specimens, and limited conditions for storage and display. It was noted that the lack of funding and specialized personnel with herpetological expertise further hinders the sustainable development of the collection.

The main opportunities for future development highlighted were: conducting new field expeditions to enrich the species composition; improving storage conditions through the renovation of display cases and containers; creating a complete electronic database with access to taxonomic and geographic information; and expanding educational programs in partnership with schools, universities, and non-governmental organizations.

The main threats identified were: the potential physical deterioration of old specimens; institutional difficulties in funding and maintenance; the absence of a strategic policy for renewal and continuity; and the potential loss of expert capacity due to a shortage of young specialists in the field of herpetology.

The earliest published data in Bulgaria on an assembled herpetological collection, stored in the Natural History Cabinet of the Ruse Men's High School, published by Kovachev (1912). The biggest herpetological collection is without a doubt the Bulgarian Royal Herpetological collection in the Royal Natural History Institute (now the National Museum of Natural History at

the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), first described by Schumann (1930) and then by Buresh & Tsonkov (1933; 1934; 1941; 1942).

The most recent publication, documenting and presenting a herpetological collection was done by Mollov (2016) for the herpetological collection of the department of Ecology and Environmental Conservation in the Faculty of Biology at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

Conclusions

Natural history collections are an irreplaceable resource for studying the past and present of biological diversity, as well as for its future conservation. They are also an invaluable tool for the education and training of students (Suarez & Tsutsui, 2004). According to Hope *et al.* (2018), museum specimens provide "data-rich opportunities for investigating species distributions and status," especially when modern methods of identification and digitization are applied. In the context of accelerating global change, natural history collections are increasingly used as a strategic tool for biodiversity monitoring (Winker, 2004). As Johnson *et al.* (2023) emphasize, the coordinated use of global collections has the potential to guide future research priorities and support the sustainable management of natural capital. As noted by Funk (2017), museum collections provide unique historical data that are critically important for assessing ecological changes and prioritizing conservation actions. In the same spirit, Meineke *et al.* (2018) stress that the digitization of such collections significantly facilitates access to valuable information with high ecological relevance. Drew (2011) adds that well-maintained and accessible collections play a central role in shaping policies for the protection of endangered species.

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