

NATURAL HISTORY OF LESVOS

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

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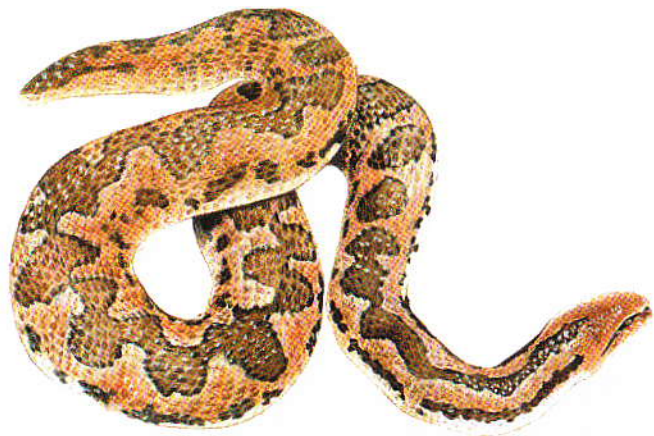
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Laudakia stellio

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NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTION OF VRISSAS-LESVOS
MYTILENE 2004



Sand Boa

Eryx

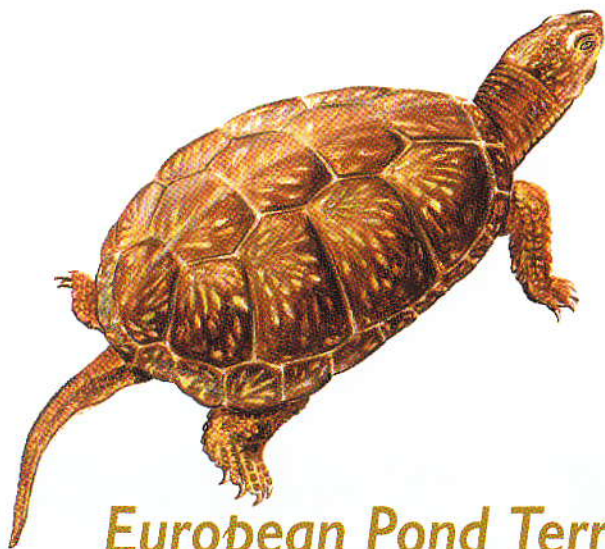
It is a small snake, up to 60 cm. Body is robust and stout and tail is blunt. Eyes are tiny with slit-shaped pupils. Gray, brown and sandy yellow are the more typical coloration but reddish individuals with darker bars are not rare. Eryx jaculus is a member of the boids group (family Boidae) that contains the largest known snakes (Anacondas). A well-known characteristic of that family are the remains of the renal

It is found in dry habitats, rocky biotopes, dunal ecosystems and olive plantations. It spends most of his life under the ground or sand where it buries itself rapidly with impressive skillful movements of his vent. Copulation occurs in April or May and females give birth to 5-12 living young and not eggs. During reproduction period it may be seen on the surface.

It is abundant in most of the mainland and also in many islands of Aegean and Ionian sea.



Emys orbicularis, (Linnaeus,1758)



European Pond Terrapin

Valtohelona

It resembles to Stripe-necked terrapin but in each side of the carapace and the neck it has yellowish blotches instead of stripes. In advance there are some more morphological differences in the ventral side of the shell: the length of the last two plates is larger than the penultimate plates, in contrast to Stripe-necked terrapin. Carapace length up to 25 cm, but usually smaller. The main coloration is dark brown or brownish-greenish overlaid with yellow spots.

It lives in fresh water where it feed on invertebrates, tadpoles, fishes and even small grass snakes. It hibernates if winter is too cold and buried during summer. Reproduction season starts May and females give birth to 5-20 eggs at late June. Eggs hatch after 3 months but in more cold climates hatchlings may born next Spring.

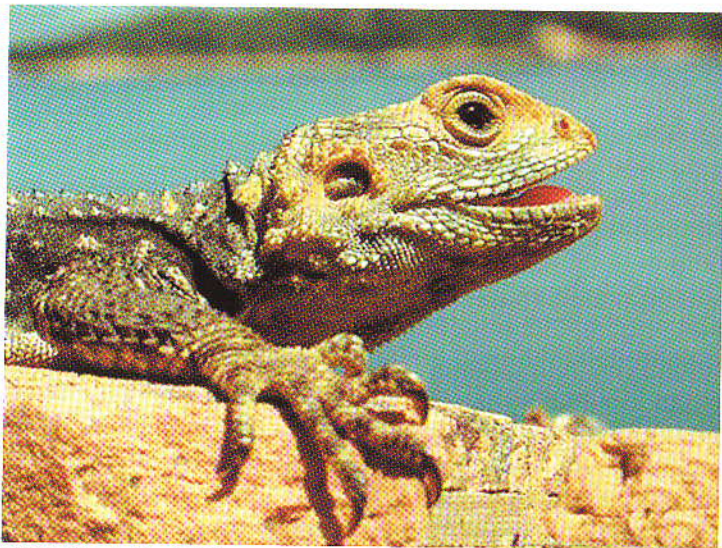
European pond terrapin expands in Europe, N. Africa and Asia. It is considered a priority species for EU.



plete picture of the amphibians and reptiles of the beautiful island of Lesvos.

Easy to read, well-written, carefully explained, and richly illustrated with photographs and drawings, this book represents a significant contribution, not only to the broadening of knowledge of the natural environment of Lesvos, but also to that of the fauna of Greece in general.

Professor Michael Dermitzakis
Vice-Rector of the University of Athens



Agama (Laudakia stellio).

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