

ZOOGEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

a) *Species richness*

The geographical distribution of all the Anatolian species within the study area was illustrated by 78 maps based on a grid system of half a degree of latitude and longitude. At this scale, records are available for 334 out of 360 squares.

The number of species for each square is given in Fig. 79 where was used a wider grid, 1 degree of latitude and longitude, in order to put in better evidence the different richness among the squares. The richest unit (37° N - 35° E), with 43 species, is mainly located in the Adana province, and marginally in the Kayseri and Nigde provinces. In general, however, the richer squares are those along the Mediterranean coasts and in the northeastern Anatolia. These results underline a real greater richness of species in these areas, but on the other hand, could have been determined by a more intensive research in some areas where live species of particular interest for herpetologists and collectors.

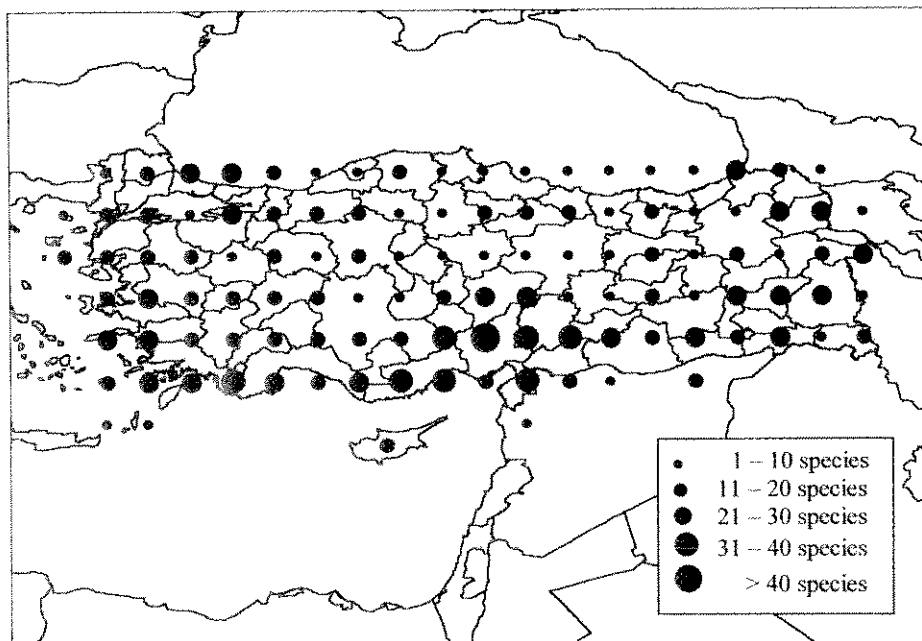


Fig. 79 - Reple richness in Turkey and Cyprus: number of species for each square of the grid system (one degree of latitude and longitude).

b) Faunistic similarity and identification of Anatolian faunistic regions

The use of the Baroni Urbani-Buser Index produced a dendrogram, clustering the units by the number of shared species, but considering also the simultaneous absences (Fig. 85). The main clusters obtained by this analysis brought us to consider 6 subdivisions, here identified as faunistic regions, including some subregions (Fig. 86).

The most differentiated cluster (including a single cartographic unit: 36° N, 40° E), represents an isolated region of Anatolia with semidesertic habitats, strictly close to the Syrian subdesertic areas. The second cluster represents the Pontic region, with the Western and the Central Pontic subregions, strictly related one another; this region appears to be slightly related to the other areas, probably because of its oceanic climate and woodland habitats which reduce the presence of species. The third cluster includes the SE Anatolian regions (Malatya and Hakkari mountains), characterised by submediterranean mountain habitats. The fourth cluster includes the eastern regions, represented by the Turkish Armenian and Kolkhidian areas, very distinct because of their environmental features, consisting of steppe and mountain forest habitats. The fifth and the sixth clusters represent the Mediterranean Anatolia, together with some other southern central areas; they represent respectively the eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean regions, and are characterised by typical Mediterranean or steppe submediterranean habitats and climate, with more or less differentiated faunal components.

c) Faunistic affinities with other Near East and SE European regions

In order to assess the relationships of the Anatolian faunistic regions with the adjacent Near East regions, a similarity analysis was carried out using the same index previously utilised for the inside comparison. The six Anatolian faunistic regions previously defined, were compared with 13 selected geographical areas outside Anatolia (see: Materials and methods). Such an analysis was carried out by considering both the genera and the species.

Two main clusters resulted from the similarity analysis using genera (Fig. 80): a first formed by the Fars province and the Syrian desert; a second including all the other areas. The first cluster is extremely distinct from the second one, because it includes a typical desert fauna mostly formed by genera with a SW-Asiatic distribution range. The second cluster includes the Anatolian regions. The analysis of its relationships allows the following considerations:

(1) The "desert" Anatolia (represented by a single square) is extremely isolated. Probably the low number of species led to underestimate its possible relationships with the SW Asiatic desert regions of the first cluster.

(2) The SE European areas are isolated from the Asiatic ones and separated in two distinct clusters: (a) the first one including the areas along the west and north Black Sea coasts (the Dobrugea and the Crimea); (b) the second one including the Greek areas of Peloponnese, Cyclades and Crete.

(3) The remaining part of the dendrogram includes the Levant, Anatolia, Transcaucasia and the northern Iran. Within this last cluster, three major groups were recognised: (a) the first one including Cyprus and the eastern Anatolia; (b) the second one composed by the southern Caucasian regions together with the north-eastern Anatolia and the Pontus, the latter being slightly isolated; (c) the third one composed by the northern Levant (Latakia) and the "hottest" parts of Anatolia (W and S peninsula).

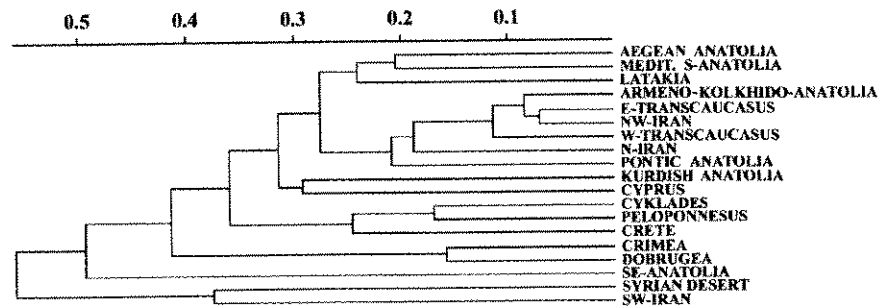


Fig. 80 - Similarity at genus level among the faunistic regions of Anatolia (as defined in the present work) and other selected geographical areas of the Near east and SE Europe (see text for details).

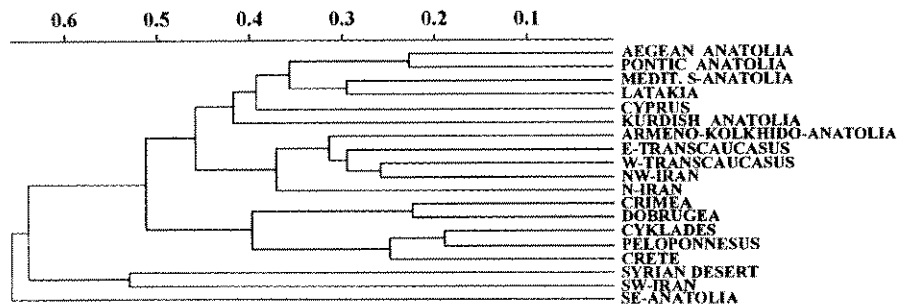


Fig. 81 - Similarity at species level among the faunistic regions of Anatolia (as defined in the present work) and other selected geographical areas of the Near east and SE Europe (see text for details).

The results obtained using the species instead of genera (Fig. 81) were mostly in agreement with the former analysis. The main differences are:

(1) The SE European regions constituted a cluster subdivided in two very related subclusters;

(2) The Caucasian regions constituted a second main cluster, evidently separated from the remaining Anatolian regions;

(3) The third main cluster included the eastern Anatolia and Cyprus (both slightly isolated), and a subcluster composed by two groups: the Aegean Anatolia, close to Pontus (not related to the Caucasian regions), and the southern Anatolia, close to Latakia.

In spite of the marginal occurrence of eremic genera and species in SE Anatolia, a rather well distinct fauna occurs in this part of Anatolia and the Syrian Desert. This result could be explained by the peripheral position of this xeric region of SE Anatolia, characterised by arid steppe as well as the northern part of Syria, and not by a true eremic environment as the core area of the Syrian Desert. Moreover, an additional explanation could involve a possible recent desertification of the region, deriving by grazing, with a still scarce colonisation by eremic reptiles.

Another general observation regards the Aegean insular area. In accordance with other animal taxa, the Aegean islands can be divided into two different groups: a western group with Balkanic affinities (Cyclades), and an eastern group with SW Anatolian affinities (Dodecanese and other eastern Aegean islands).

Finally, the biogeographical relationships of the Pontic Region are difficult to explain: at a genus level it resulted related to the Kolkhida, forming a "Colchis Biogeographical Province" as defined by Tuniyev (1997); on the contrary, using the similarity of species, it seems to be related to the Aegean Anatolia.

d) Chorotypes

In order to outline the general features of the Anatolian reptile fauna, we utilised the chorotypes, as defined in the materials and methods. In the checklist we assigned the species to detailed chorotypes, referable to the main chorotypes proposed by Vigna Taglianti et al. (1999). In Table I, the Anatolian species are partitioned in the main and detailed chorotypes, with the addition of the endemics; the percent values are reported in Fig. 82. A special analysis was carried out for the 28 endemic taxa (see below).

The three sea turtles have a cosmopolitan distribution, and consequently were not discussed in the analysis. Two other species were not considered in the analysis because introduced to Anatolia (*Testudo marginata*, *Podarcis sicula*).

Excluding the endemic species, representing the 26% of the reptile fauna, three chorotypes are dominant: the SW-Asiatic (23%), the E-Mediterranean (18%), and the Turano-Mediterranean (9%). Other chorotypes are represented by low percentages, except for the Mediterranean (5%).

Tab. 1. Distribution patterns of the Anatolian reptiles; species partitioned within main and detailed chorotypes, with the addition of introduced and endemic taxa

Main chorotypes	Detailed chorotypes	Species
Siberia-Eurasian	1	<i>Vipera berus</i>
Turano-Eurasian-Mediterranean	1	<i>Lepus arbustorum</i>
Centralisate-Europan-Mediterranean	1	<i>Natrix natrix</i>
Centralisate-Europan	3	<i>Lacerta agilis</i> , <i>Natrix tessellata</i> , <i>Vipera ursini</i>
Centralisate	1	<i>Colelia nebulosa</i>
Turano-Mediterranean	10	<i>Mansueta cupreata</i> , <i>Ophiomorus spondus</i> , <i>Diplazys vermiculata</i> , <i>Colelia nebulosa</i> , <i>Hierophis caspius</i> , <i>Telioscopus fallax</i>
Irano-Mediterranean	1	<i>Ferania graeca</i>
Turano-E-Mediterranean	1	<i>Colelia nannipig</i>
Turano-Apenninian	1	<i>Elaphe quatuorlineata</i>
Turano-Anatolian	1	<i>Micropogon isabellina</i>
Turano-Caucasian	1	<i>Laudakia caucasia</i>
Turania	1	<i>Rhombophis elapsus</i> , <i>Siniodonops grandiceps</i> , <i>Archaeolacerta cappadocica</i> , <i>Eirenis coronella</i>
SW-Asiatic	25	<i>Crotaphytus heterocercus</i> , <i>Timon princeps</i>
	2	<i>Crotaphytus scabrum</i> , <i>Eumeces schmidleri</i> , <i>Mabuya aurata</i>
	3	<i>Tropidurus nudicauda</i> , <i>Lacerta media</i> , <i>Hierophis jugularis</i> , <i>H. schmidti</i>
	4	<i>Phrynoscephalus persicus</i> , <i>Eumeces strandi</i> , <i>Lacerta strigata</i> , <i>Abelapharus byzantini</i> , <i>Eirenis collaris</i> , <i>Vipera rufescens</i>
	6	<i>Phrynoscephalus persicus</i> , <i>Eumeces strandi</i> , <i>Lacerta strigata</i> , <i>Abelapharus byzantini</i> , <i>Eirenis collaris</i> , <i>Vipera rufescens</i>
	2	<i>Colelia nannipig</i> , <i>Phrynoscephalus persicus</i>
	2	<i>Eirenis anadolensis</i> , <i>Elaphe kushchakovi</i>
	2	<i>Phrynoscephalus persicus</i> , <i>Phrynoscephalus persicus</i>
	2	<i>Agkistrodon ferox</i> , <i>Coronella austriaca</i>
	2	<i>Podiceps maritimus</i> , <i>Elaphe longissima</i>
	1	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>
	4	<i>Hemidactylus turanicus</i> , <i>Chamaeleo chamaeleon</i> , <i>Mabuya vittata</i> , <i>Mabopolis montepesulanus</i>
	1	<i>Eryx jaculus</i>
	2	<i>Laudakia stoliczi</i> , <i>Ophiops elegans</i>
	10	<i>Crotaphytus kotschyi</i> , <i>Blanus strandi</i> , <i>Lacerta trilineata</i> , <i>Podiceps maritimus</i> , <i>Abelapharus kishinevi</i> , <i>Ophiomorus pappocharisimus</i> , <i>Colelia nannipig</i>
	3	<i>Archaeolacerta schreiberi</i> , <i>Archaeolacerta laevis</i> , <i>Abelapharus budaki</i>
	4	<i>Eirenis abramis</i> , <i>E. leucostriata</i> , <i>E. lipemaculata</i> , <i>E. robi</i>
	1	<i>Chalcidius ossilanus</i>
	1	<i>Protopis tripartita</i>
	2	<i>Verrucis griseus</i> , <i>Spilargyrops diademata</i>
	1	<i>Lepidophis microstomus</i>
	1	<i>Acantophthalmus bohisianus</i>
	3	<i>Carrelia carrelia</i> , <i>Chelonia mydas</i> , <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
	2	<i>Tetradactylus marginatus</i> , <i>Podiceps strata</i>
	3	<i>Archaeolacerta parva</i> , <i>A. valentini</i> , <i>Abelapharus chernovi</i>
	1	<i>Vipera kaznakovi</i>
	1	<i>Archaeolacerta rufus</i>
	1	<i>Archaeolacerta bergii</i>
	1	<i>Archaeolacerta parvula</i>
	10	<i>Archaeolacerta armenica</i> , <i>A. hermanni</i> , <i>A. raddai</i> , <i>A. saphirina</i> , <i>A. unisexualis</i> , <i>A. szentii</i> , <i>Eirenis pappocharis</i> , <i>E. hispidus</i> , <i>A. vipera bogneri</i>
	1	<i>Eirenis plukaei</i>
	1	<i>Archaeolacerta clarkorum</i> , <i>Archaeolacerta dybowskii</i> , <i>A. mieri</i> , <i>Vipera postica</i>
	2	<i>Archaeolacerta dardani</i> , <i>Lacerta pampolytica</i>
	2	<i>Eirenis szentii</i> , <i>E. habbaniensis</i>
	2	<i>Eirenis aurinolimbata</i> , <i>E. habrani</i>
	111	
	111	
		TOTAL SPECIES

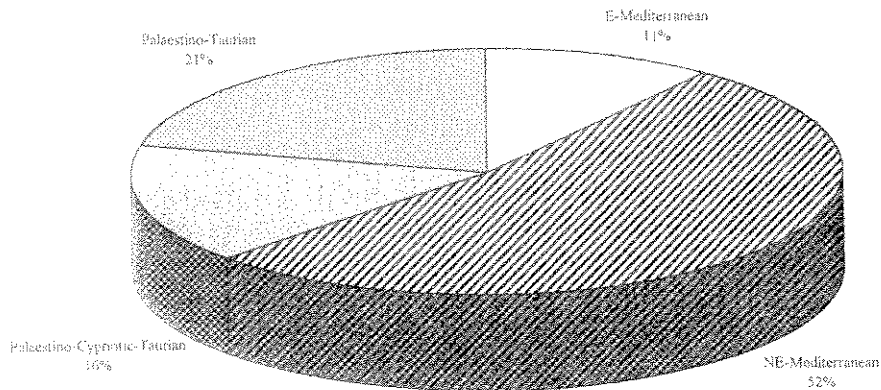


Fig. 84 - Percentages of the detailed chorotypes within the E-Mediterranean species of Anatolian reptiles.

Among the SW-Asiatic (Fig. 83) and the E-Mediterranean (Fig. 84), the analysis was extended to the detailed chorotypes. Within the first chorotype, the percentages are more or less uniformly distributed, but two detailed patterns co-dominant (each 21%): the Mesopotamian and the Irano-Caucasian; other well represented chorotypes are the Irano-Anatolian (17%) and the widespread SW-Asiatic (13%). Within the second main chorotype, more than half species are represented by NE-Mediterranean (52%), followed by the Palaestino-Taurian (21%), the Palaestino-Cyprioto-Taurian (16%) and the widespread E-Mediterranean (11%).

e) Endemics

Twenty-eight species of reptiles (26%), listed in Tab. I, are endemic to the area as defined in the materials and methods. Twelve of them are exclusively distributed in Anatolia: *Archaeolacerta bendimahiensis*, *A. clarkorum*, *A. danfordi*, *A. sapphirina*, *A. uzzelli*, *Lacerta pamphylica*, *Eirenis aurolineatus*, *E. eiselti*, *E. hakkariensis*, *E. thospitis*, *Vipera pontica*, *V. wagneri*.

Such a value is to be considered high if compared with the number of species endemic to other non desert areas of the Mediterranean basin (Iberian, Italian and Balkan peninsulas) (Tab. II).

Tab. II - Numbers and percentages of endemic species of Anatolia and other non desert areas of the Mediterranean basin.

	TOTAL SPECIES	ENDEMICS	% ENDEMISM
IBERIAN PENINSULA	40	8	20,0 %
ITALIAN PENINSULA	44	8	18,2 %
BALKAN PENINSULA	52	8	15,4 %
ANATOLIA	110	28	25,5 %

The highest number (10) of endemic taxa is referable to an "Armenian" pattern of distribution, which usually includes species inhabiting mountains or plateaux. These are usually adapted to steppe or rocky habitats in the north-eastern Anatolia and, more or less marginally, also in Transcaucasia. Other endemic patterns are also related to north-eastern Anatolia: (a) the "Kolkhidian" pattern including four species restricted to the Kolkhidian region; (b) "Armeno-Anatolian" pattern including three species more or less extended from Transcaucasia to Anatolia; (c) five endemic patterns of distribution, each represented by a single species, occurring in Transcaucasian areas and more or less extended to northern and/or north-eastern Anatolia.

An other group of endemics occurs in southern Anatolia and includes three patterns of distribution each represented by two species: (a) a "SW-Anatolian" pattern, (b) a "Kurdish" pattern and (c) a "Taurian" pattern.

Cyprus, excluded from this zoogeographical analysis, has a fauna partially in common to the southern Anatolia and close to the Levant one. *Coluber cypriensis* and *Lacerta troodica* are the unique endemics of Cyprus.

The endemic species should be discussed in accordance with their phylogenetic relationships and then be related to species distributed in the Caucasian region, the E Mediterranean region, SW Asia or the Turanian Depression. For instance, the endemic species of *Archeolacerta* are mostly related to other endemic species of the Caucasus with the exception of *danfordi* and *parva*, the latter belonging with *fraasi* (from Lebanon mountains) an E-Mediterranean subgenus (*Parvilacerta*). Also *Lacerta pamphylica* is related to the *trilineata* complex, a typical E Mediterranean group. Another example may be the genus *Eirenis* that includes species occurring from Anatolia to Iran and Arabia. The endemic *Vipera* could be related to two different groups: (a) *kaznakovi* to the *ursinii* group, mostly composed by Turanian species; (b) *pontica* to the *aspis-ammodytes* group, mostly composed by S-European species. Finally, *Eremias pleskei* is related to Centralasiatic species.

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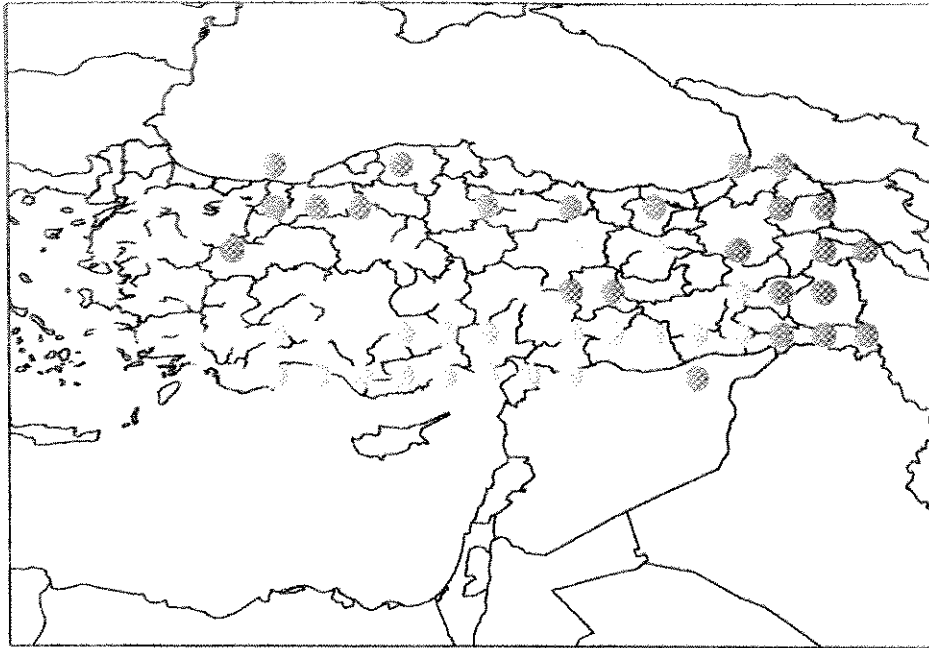


Fig. 85 - Similarity among 76 selected cartographic units of Anatolia based on reptile species, using Baroni Urbani and Buser Index and UPGMA clustering (see text for details).

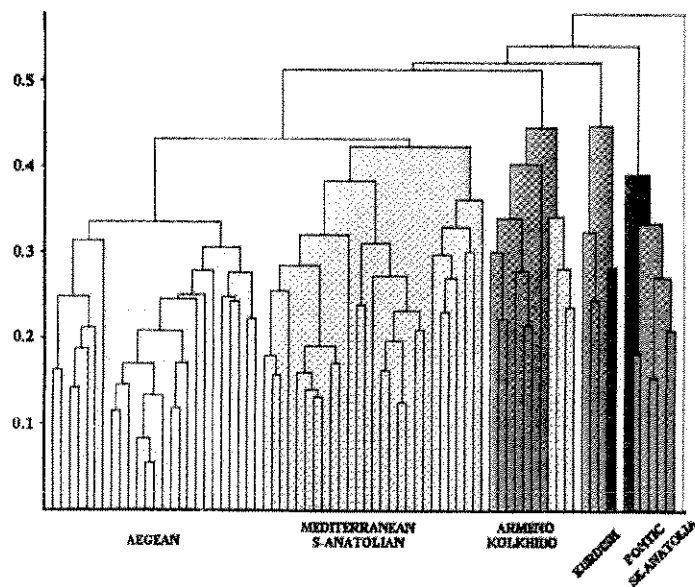


Fig. 86 - Faunistic regions and subregions of Anatolia obtained from similarity analysis of reptiles (see text); colours on the map correspond to those of the dendrogram in Fig. 85.

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