

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

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PRIRODOSLOVNI MUZEJ
 IZOOLOŠKI VRT

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 snakes. His work to establish the herpetological collection continued Mr. Novak and Mr. 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.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During June 2013 and July 2014 the herpetological collection of Natural History Museum was analysed, and the collection of snakes is the integral part of it. The material is stored in alcohol and in formalin with the exception of 27 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).

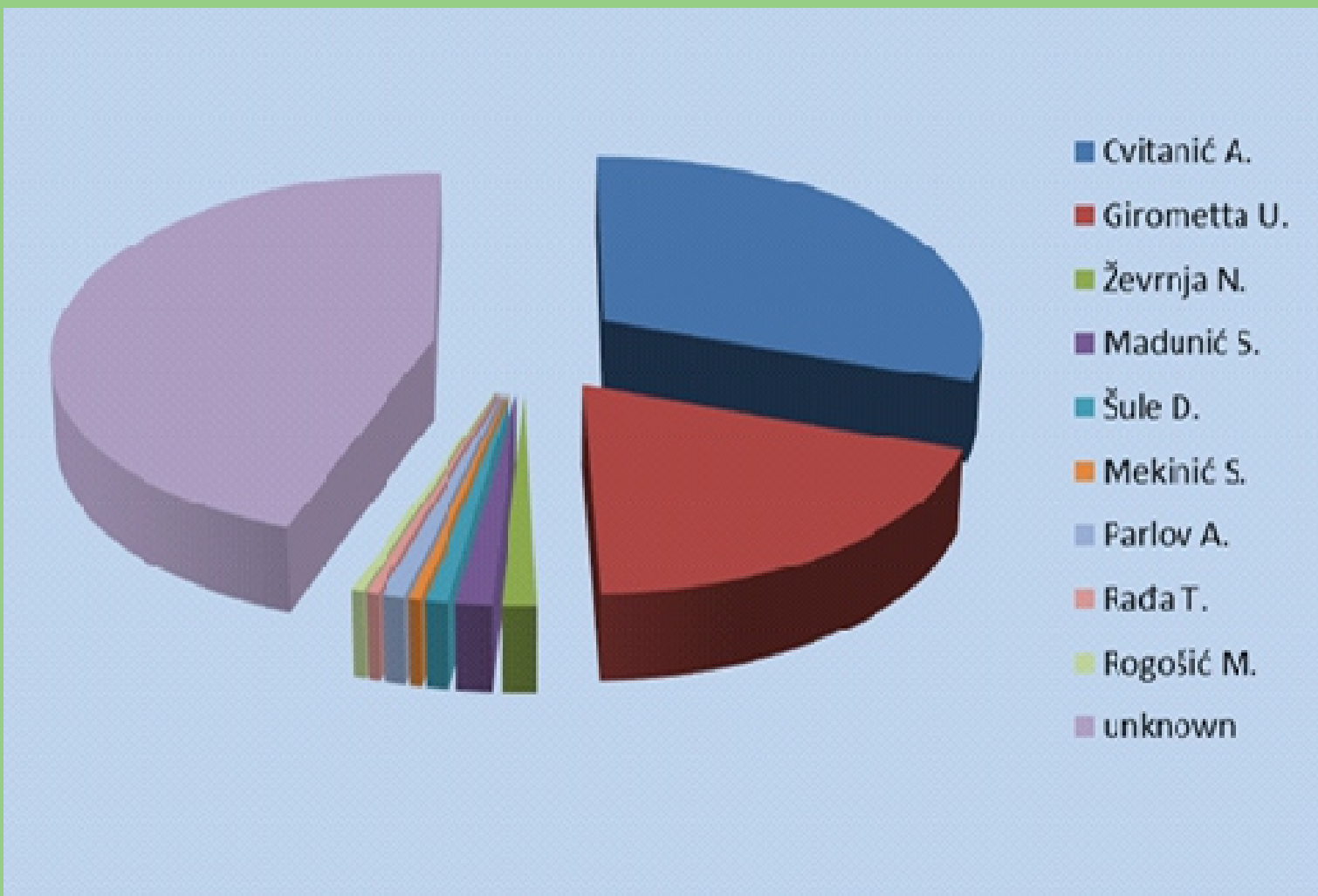
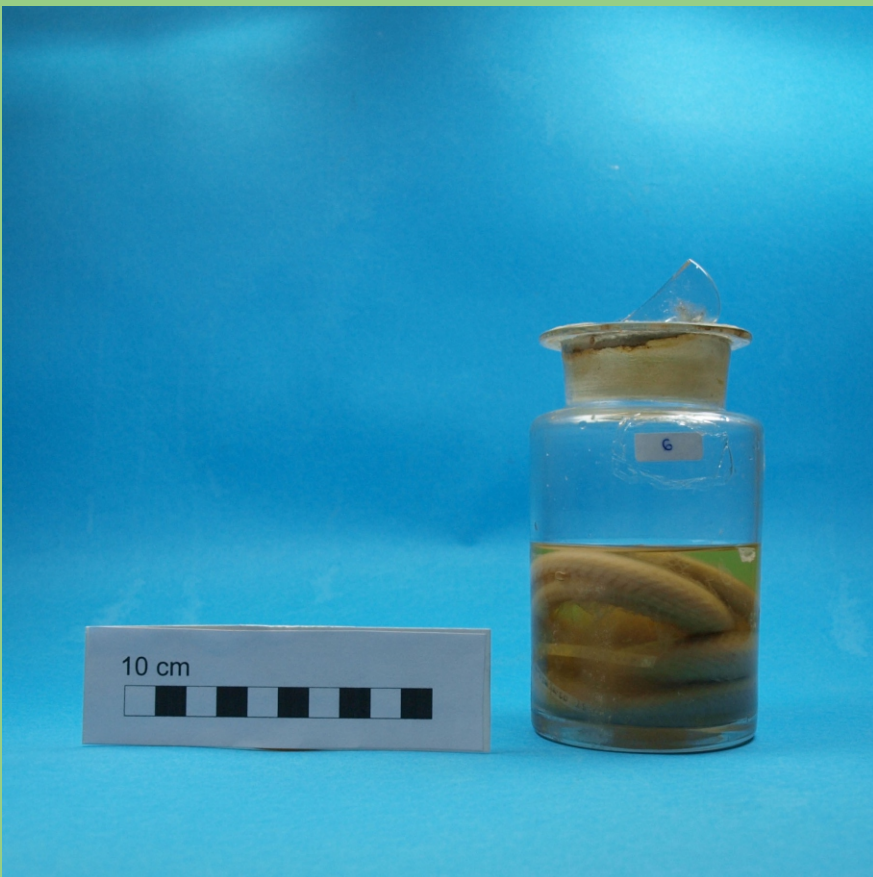


Figure 1. Distribution of samples by collectors



Picture 1. The oldest specimen from 1926th year



Picture 2. The youngest specimen from 2013th year

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Analysis of the herpetological collection of Natural History Museum in Split found that snakes were represented in the herpetological collection by 183 inventory numbers with 224 samples. In the herpetological collection there are samples of 4 families, 5 subfamilies, 11 genera and 15 snakes species. The most represented samples are from Natracinae and Viperidae families, in fact genera Natrinx and Vipera. The largest number of samples was collected by Girometta, U. and Cvitanić, A., collecting in the area of Dalmatia. A large part of the collection doesn't contain information of collector or collection date. The collection was created in period of twenties of XX. century to the end of 2014.

RESULTS

Analysis of the herpetological collection of Natural History Museum in Split found that snakes were represented in the herpetological collection by 183 inventory numbers with 224 samples. In the herpetological collection there are samples of 4 families, 5 subfamilies, 11 genera and 15 snakes species.

Serpentes

Boidae
 Boinae
 Boa

B. constrictor Linnaeus, 1758 2

Colubridae
 Colubrinae
 Coronella

C. austriaca Laurenti, 1768 5

Elaphe

E. quatuorlineata (Lacépède, 1789) 12

Hierophis

H. gemonensis (Laurenti, 1768) 27

Platyceps

P. najadum (Eichwald, 1831) 7

Telescopus

T. fallax (Fleischmann, 1831) 16

Zamenis

Z. longissimus (Laurenti, 1768) 8

Z. situla (Linnaeus, 1758) 27

Natricinae

Natrinx

N. natrinx (Linnaeus, 1758) 31

N. natrinx persa (Pallas, 1814) 2

N. tessellata (Laurenti, 1768) 18

Psammophiinae

Malpolon

M. insignitus (Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1827) 14

Elapidae

Naja

N. naja (Linnaeus, 1758) 2

Viperidae

Viperinae

Vipera

V. ammodytes (Linnaeus, 1758) 43

V. berus (Linnaeus, 1758) 2

V. berus berus (Linnaeus, 1758) 1

V. ursinii (Bonaparte, 1835) 5

The largest number of specimens (fig. 1) was collected by Girometta, U. and, Cvitanić in Dalmatian area. However, 100 samples (45%) do not contain information about the collector and 86 samples (38%) do not contain information about the locality. The same case is with the dates of collection, which are missing for 130 (58%) samples. For 84 samples (38%) there are no data about collector or collection date or locality where the specimens were collected. The oldest specimen was collected in 1926, and the most recent in 2013.