



### Alps, 03. -17.07.2010

Our first trip to the Alps led us to the Allgäu area, the Julian Alps and Carinthia. As we were not familiar with these areas we were lucky that some experts guided us to some remarkable places and that we had received some hints in advance. In particular, we'd like to thank Jürgen Gebhart, Mario Schweiger, the team of Herpetofauna.at and Wouter Beukema. Here is our travel diary:



The Alps near Oberstdorf

03.07.:

Arrival in Oberstdorf. At hot temperatures we went to the Nebelhorn for photographing flowers.



*Gymnadenia rhellicani*



A rather rare species: *Plebeius glandon*

04.07.:

Herping-trip with Jürgen Gebhart near Füssen. We almost found all herpeto-highlights of that area!



Besides of this *Salamandra atra* we saw *Rana temporaria*, *Bufo bufo* and *Ichthyosaura alpestris*

Mallorca /



Andalucia, 10. - 18.03.2012



At the Lech river we came across this *Astacus astacus*



At a lake shore we managed to get this in situ shot of *Vipera berus*



Note: also reptiles (*Lacerta agilis*) are bothered by mosquitos!



At the lake we noticed a big population of Natrix natrix – also some black specimen.



Bombina variegata

05.07.:

Another trip with Jürgen – this time near Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Despite of the rainy weather we saw Vipera berus, Natrix natrix and Zootoca vivipara. Back at Oberstdorf, we had a photo session with some orchids.





Vipera berus – in situ, again!



Leucorrhinia dubia



Cephalanthera rubra



*Gymnadenia odoratissima*



*Epipactis atrorubens*

06.07.:

After several hours of rain we were able to get some pictures at the Fellhorn in the afternoon.



*Traunsteinera globosa*



Some brave *Zootoca vivipara* at 1700 m altitude

07.07.:

Leaving Oberstdorf towards the Julian Alps and arrival at Tarvisio. This Italian town is inhabited by wall lizards!



*Podarcis muralis maculiventris*

08.07.:

At hot temperatures we had a hike at the Kanin mountain – searching for *Lilium carnolicum*.



At lower altitudes *Lilium martagon* can be found...



...at higher altitudes we finally saw *Lilium carnolicum*



Carstic mountain area...



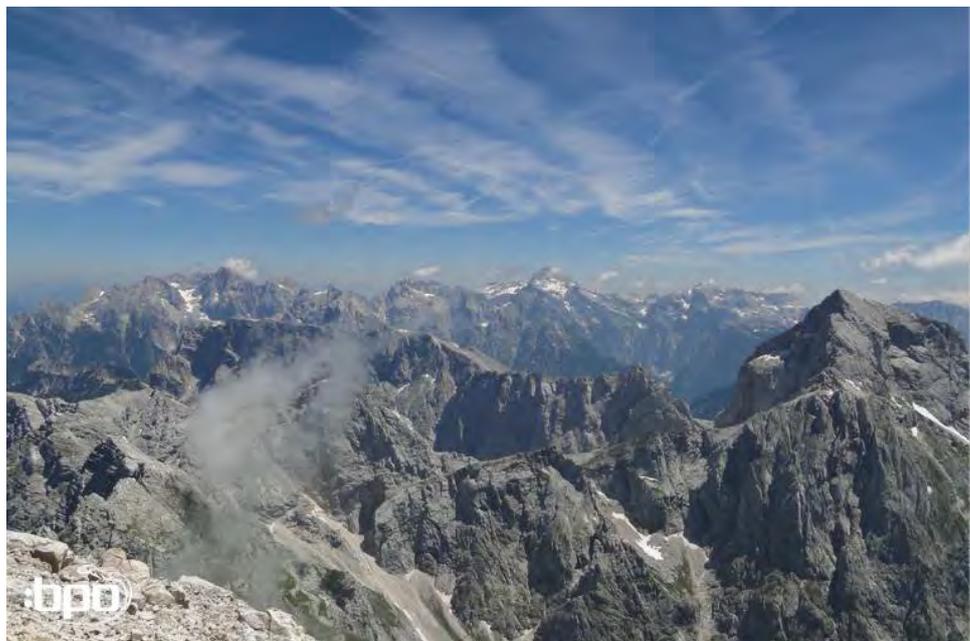
...with alpine flowers: *Soldanella alpina*

09.07.:

Still hot temperatures – we started herping at 6 a.m. at the Predil Pass in Slovenia, an *Iberolacerta horvathi* site. Afterwards, a hike on the Mangart mountain made us sweat.



Portrait of *Iberolacerta horvathi*: This species' northern distribution limits are the southeastern Alps – that's the reason why we visited the Julian Alps!



View from Mangart to the Slovenian Alps

10.07.:

Another hike at Sella Nevea – without anything worth to mention. In the afternoon we relaxed at the Laghi di Fusine, watching some *Natrix natrix*.



The Lago Superiore in front of the Mangart mountain



Matrix matrix gliding in its spa

11.07.:

We left Tarvisio for a sidestep to Monfalcone in the south – There, we wanted to visit a lizard site with *Algyroides nigropunctatus* and *Podarcis melisselensis*.



Stop over at the river Soca: a small *Natrix tessellata*

12.07.:

That day, temperatures reached 37 ° C. Hence we started herping at 5:30 a.m. – we found several *Algyroides nigropunctatus* but no *Podarcis melisselensis*.



Carstic area at Monfalcone



*Algyroides nigropunctatus*

13.07.:

Another unsuccessful search for *Podarcis melissensis* – frustration! Hoping for moderate temperatures we drove back to Tarvisio. In the evening we caught some shots of *Zootoca vivipara carniolica*, an oviparous subspecies of that lizard.



*Iphiclides podalirius*



*Zootoca vivipara carniolica* at Fusine

14.07.:

Hiking trip at the Altipiano Montasio. Later: herping at Fusine, again. This time we photographed *Iberolacerta horvathi*.



An ant enjoying *Gymnadenia rubra*



Myriads of *Dianthus monspessulanus*...



...each flower is a small planet with strange inhabitants.



*Iberolacerta horvathi* on Italian territory.

15.07.:

We left Tarvisio and went to Carinthia, where we wanted to meet Mario Schweiger, Andre Schmid and Richard & Florian Kopecky.



Goodbye Tarvisio: Podarcis muralis maculiventris

16.07.:

Herping with Mario, Andre, Richard and Florian. Soon, Andre found two Vipera ammodytes. Afterwards we visited a Natrix tessellata habitat – not too successful: In the summer sun, the river shores were populated by sunbathing people instead of snakes. At least we noticed numerous wall lizards and some Lacerta viridis.



Habitat of Vipera ammodytes and Podarcis muralis



A juvenile *Vipera ammodytes*



The whole crew admiring the *Vipera*



A female *Vipera ammodytes*



Podarcis muralis muralis in Carinthia: 10 km southwards, at Tarvisio, the subspecies maculiventris occurs.



Limenitis Camilla



Female Lacerta viridis

17.07.:

Common trip with Mario, Andre, Richard, Florian and Christoph Riegler & Gerald Ochsenhofer to an *Iberolacerta horvathi* habitat. Later on, we had to leave and returned to Germany.



*Iberolacerta horvathi* – this time, an Austrian specimen!

The home of European lizards - by Birgit & Peter Oefinger!