

Specific composition, numbers and biotopical distribution of snakes (Serpentes) on the southern slope of the Navagir mountain ridge (Abrau Peninsula) and some problems of its preservation

A. Yu. Tsellarius

*A. N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences
33 Leninsky Prosp., Moscow 119071, Russia*

Article info

Short Communication

<https://doi.org/10.18500/1814-6090-2021-21-3-4-144-150>

Received 18 September 2021,
revised 24 October 2021,
accepted 28 October 2021

This is an open access article distributed under the terms of Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC-BY 4.0)

Abstract. Seven species of snakes were revealed in 1997–1998, six of which (*Natrix tessellata*, *N. natrix*, *Zamenis longissimus*, *Hierophis caspius*, *Platyceps najadum*, and *Elaphe saurimatus*) were in the lower part of the slope, in the area of mediterranean vegetation. In 2001–2003, the first three species were revealed only, and their numbers significantly decreased, reaching a maximum in the middle part of the slope, in the zone of transition from mediterranean vegetation to broad-leaved forests. In 1999–2000, the recreational load on the coastal area sharply rose, which probably was the cause for the species composition reduction and changes of the spatial distribution in snakes.

Keywords: snakes, specific diversity, numbers, recreational load, Abrau Peninsula

For citation: Tsellarius A. Yu. Specific composition, numbers and biotopical distribution of snakes (Serpentes) on the southern slope of the Navagir mountain ridge (Abrau Peninsula) and some problems of its preservation. *Current Studies in Herpetology*, 2021, vol. 21, iss. 3–4, pp. 144–150 (in Russian). <https://doi.org/10.18500/1814-6090-2021-21-3-4-144-150>

REFERENCES

Kozlova N. K. To kill a snake – whether it a soul-winning business? *Bulletin of Buryat State University*, 2015, iss. 10, pp. 287–294 (in Russian).

Ostrovskikh S. V., Pestov M. V., Gnetneva A. N. Reptilia of the Utrish Reserve and adjacent areas. *Okhrana bioty v gosudarstvennom prirodnom zapovednike "Utrish". Nauchnye trudy* [Protection of Biota in the Utrish State Nature Reserve. Scientific works]. Maykop, Poligraf-YuG Publ., 2015, vol. 3, pp. 272–296 (in Russian).

Sluzhebnoe sobakovodstvo [Service Dog Training]. Moscow, Izdatel'stvo DOSAAF SSSR, 1987. 382 p. (in Russian).

Tuniyev B. S., Orlov N. L., Ananjeva N. B., Agasyan A. L. 2009. *Snake of the Caucasus: Taxonomic Diversity, Distribution, Conservation*. Saint Petersburg, Moscow, KMK Scientific Press Ltd., 2009. 223 p. (in Russian).

Janovcová M., Rádlová S., Polák J., Sedláčková K., Pelěšková Š., Žampachová B., Frynta D., Landová E. Human attitude toward reptiles: A relationship between fear, disgust, and aesthetic preferences. *Animals*, 2019, vol. 9, no. 5, article number 238. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani9050238>

✉ *Corresponding author.* Laboratory of Comparative Ethology and Biocommunication, A. N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia.

ORCID and address: Alexey Yu. Tsellarius: ale5386@yandex.ru.