

Book Review:

HAROLD HEATWOLE, JOHN W. WILKINSON (EDS). *Amphibians Biology. Volume 11 - Status of conservation and decline of Amphibians. Eastern Hemisphere. Part 4 . Southern Europe and Turkey*

SEBASTIANO SALVIDIO

Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, dell'Ambiente e della Vita (DISTAV), Università di Genova, I 16132 Genova Italy. E-mail: salvidio@dipteris.unige.it

This book consists of 158 pages, a soft cover and is available from Pelagic Publishing, Exeter United Kingdom. It is part of a series of similar volumes recently published on the conservation status of amphibians in Western Europe (Heatwole and Wilkinson, 2013), Asia (Heatwole and Das, 2014) and North Africa (Busack and Heatwole, 2014). The book covers, with a specific chapter each, the following countries (in alphabetical order): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey. The reader may notice the absence of Portugal and Spain, that in fact were included in a previous volume (Heatwole and Wilkinson, 2013). The list of contributors includes 25 Authors, all of them well known herpetologists being, without any doubt, among the major experts of the region they are called to illustrate within this book.

Each chapter is organised in short sections, generally similar but not identical for all countries. Generally, an introductory section presents and discuss the diversity of the batrachofauna, with usually at least one table listing the species found in each territory, their international and national level of protection and their local conservation status. These sections are very useful and informative at the same time, because they provide immediate information about the current situation of the local amphibian diversity found in each country. A second section is devoted to species of special concerns (e.g. rare, highly isolated or declining) or to urgent conservation problems, such as the diffusion of chytrids, the introduction of invasive species that threaten amphibians

or specific cases of habitat degradation or destruction. The third section is specifically dedicated to “Conservation measures and monitoring programmes” and, in my personal opinion, provides the most interesting and original information of the entire book. Unfortunately, the quantity and quality of the information provided for the different chapters is highly heterogeneous, going from the three full pages of Slovenia, to only five lines of Macedonia, without speaking of Bosnia and Herzegovina where this section is completely missing. Each chapter ends with a list of references.

This book is informative as it provides updated information about the status of amphibian populations in the many countries treated. Reading it, I found many useful data concerning different places, species or populations and I think the book will be of interest to professional herpetologists and to conservationists as well. However, I regret that these positive result could have been even more successful with some additional effort to standardise the different contributions that are often too unbalanced, at least concerning the quantity of the information provided. Finally, readers would have surely appreciated a better quality of the printed colour illustrations.

REFERENCES

- Busack, S.D., Heatwole, H. (2014). *Amphibian Biology. Volume 11. Status of Conservation and Decline of Amphibians: Eastern Hemisphere Part 2: North Africa*. *Basic Appl. Herpetol.* **27**: 1-117.

Heatwole, H., Das, I. (2013). Amphibian Biology. Volume 11. Status of Conservation and Decline of Amphibians: Eastern Hemisphere Part 1: Asia. Natural History Publications, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

Heatwole, H., Wilkinson, J.W. (2013). Amphibian Biology. Volume 11 Part 3: Status of Conservation and Decline of Amphibians: Eastern Hemisphere: Western Europe. Pelagic Publishing, Exeter UK.