

New record of *Typhlops vermicularis* Merrem, 1820 from Symi island, Greece

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The genus *Typhlops* belongs to the family Typhlopidae (blindsnakes) which currently includes approximately 260 species found in central and S America, Africa, Madagascar, SE Europe, S Asia and Australia (Vidal et al., 2010). The Eurasian blindsnake, *Typhlops vermicularis* Merrem, 1820, is distributed in W Albania, S Serbia, S Montenegro, Kosovo, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, S Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, W Syria, Jordan, W Lebanon, Israel, NW Iran, NE Iraq, NW Afghanistan, E Georgia, Azerbaijan, S Armenia, E Daghestan, S Turkmenistan, W Uzbekistan, S Tajikistan, S Kazakhstan, Russia and NE Egypt (Wallach, 2002), (Fig. 1). Regarding Greek islands, *T.vermicularis* occurs on Kerkira (Corfu), Lefkada, Evvia (Euboea), Skyros, Salamina, Kythera, Naxos, Andros, Thassos, Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Patmos, Leros, Kalymnos, Kos and Rhodos (Rhodes) (Wallach, 2002). Herein we present a new record of *T. vermicularis* from Symi island, Greece.

Symi has been repeatedly surveyed for its herpetofauna by Clark (1972), Buttle (1995), Broggi (2002), Cattaneo (2007), Wilson & Grillitsch (2009) and M. Corboz (pers. comm.), without any reference to *T. vermicularis*. On 16th April 2012, at approximately 15:00 in sunny weather conditions, SW of Emporios village on Symi island (36.613°, 27.805°, 125 m.a.s.l.) the two authors, during a herpetofaunal survey, found, caught, and photographed two adult specimens of *T. vermicularis* (NHMC80.3.21.27; Fig. 2). The snakes were found beneath two different stones several meters away from each other within a terraced field that bordered a small, remote farm. After being photographed the

two individuals were released at the exact spots they were found. This record complements the existing knowledge of the snakes's geographic distribution and the herpetofauna of Symi. Finally it provides important data about the biogeography of the species and the biogeographic history of the area.

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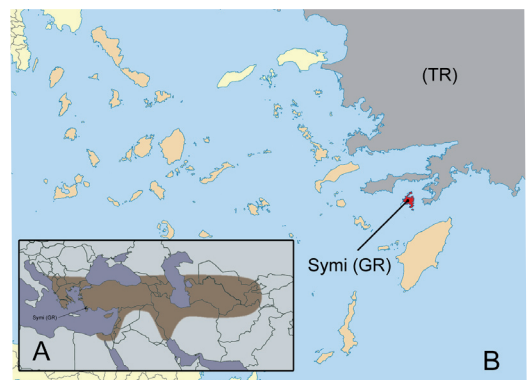


Figure 1. (A) Map showing the approximate geographic distribution of *T. vermicularis*, according to Wallach (2002) and Kornilios et al. (2011). (B) Map showing the location of Symi island, Greece.

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Figure 2. One of the two specimens of Eurasian blindsnake found on Symi. Photo by Matt Wilson.

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