

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *LACERTA VIVIPARA* JACQ IN THE GREAT HUNGARIAN PLAIN.

By Prof. OLIVER GEDULY.

A few days ago, viz. at the beginning of October, I have been, as host of an uncle of mine, Mr. LADISLÁS FARKAS, for a weak-end, at the puszta called Felső-Badád near Ócsa, County of Pest. On the 9th, which was a rather cool and windy day, I went out the woods, to collect some Batrachians and Reptiles. My way led through a marshy territory, the so-called „Nagy Turjány“, lying behind the castle of Mr. LAD. FARKAS. During my trip I sighted, on the bank of a small channel inhabited by *Nymphaea alba*, a specimen of the European Pond Tortoise (*Emys orbicularis* L.), exposing itself to the sunshine, whilst on the damp meadows *Rana arvalis* NILSS. var. *Wolterstorffi* FEJÉRV. occurred in numerous specimens. Along the skirts of the forest chiefly composed of ash-trees, some Ringed Snakes (*Tropidonotus natrix* L. s. str. and var. *persa* JAX) and Sand Lizards (*Lacerta agilis* L) enjoyed the sunshine here and there breaking through the clouds. Suddenly I remarked a rather small lizard, rushing into a bush, but I did not pay any special attention to it, thinking, at first instance, that it was nothing else than a young *Lacerta agilis*. Although I looked after the animal, and was very much surprised, indeed, when I recognized that the lizard, reposing on a rotten log fallen into the bush, was not, as I awaited, a *L. agilis*, but a Viviparous Lizard! Struck with this seldom and unexpected phenomenon, I went on in the perusal of the adjacent territory, and found that near almost each insolated bush or trunk a specimen of this species was to be met with, so that, within a few hours, 16 individuals were captured, and about 50 further specimens were sighted, occurring along the skirts and on the clearings of the forest, basking in the sunshine on rotten stumps of moss-clad trees, or on fallen leaves covering the black humus.

It is very remarkable, from a biological and zoogeographical point of view, that *Lacerta vivipara* JACQ., which is decidedly, at least in Central Europe, an inhabitant of the mountains, proves now to live, about 30 kilometers South-East of Budapest, on a spot lying in the heart of the Great Hungarian Plain, the so-called „Nagy Alföld“, which is the most typical dusty and hot lowland that could be imagined.

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