

THE RED-BELLIED TOAD *BOMBINA BOMBINA* (L., 1671) (AMPHIBIA: ANURA) NEW LOCALIZATIONS IN 2009 IN LATVIA

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Populations of fire-bellied toad existing in the territory of Latvia live on the northern border of this species' area (Gasc et al. 1997), which is located near the southern border of Latvia, where it meets Lithuania and Belarus (Kuzmin et al. 2008; Pupina, Pupins 2008; Pupina et al. 2008). The task of this research is to clarify the state of species, its distribution and number in the territory of Latvia.

Researches of distribution of *Bombina bombina* have been done in the territory of the Republic of Latvia, mainly in the southern part. Count by voices was done in sunny, warm and calm weather in the time period from 10:00 till 22:00. Visual observation used for registration of non-vocalizing specimens (non-vocalizing specimens of males, females, juveniles and tadpoles, eggs) in the transects of habitats. Informative campaign about the existence of *Bombina bombina* in Latvia was made in the mass media: the external appearance of the amphibia was shown, the lifestyle was explained, and the vocalization of *Bombina bombina* males was broadcasted on television and radio. During the broadcast we requested inhabitants of Latvia to respond those, who have heard vocalization of *Bombina bombina*. All the data checked in field expeditions.

During the researches in 2009 30 new localizations were found in Latvia, all in Daugavpils district: 20 new localizations in Medumu pagasts (120 vocalizing males); 7 in Demenes pagasts (63 vocalizing males); 2 new localizations in Sederes pagasts (6 vocalizing males); 1 new localization in Skrudalienas pagasts (1 vocalizing male). In sum 190 vocalizing males were registered in all new localizations. Tadpoles were found in 3 localizations only. During the researches in 2004 - 2009 years *Bombina bombina* were registered in 100 water bodies in Latvia. In sum 372 vocalizing males were registered in Latvia in 2009.

The research has been executed owing to support of European Structural Funds, Daugavpils University (Project 2004/003/VPD1/ESF/PIAA/04/NP/3.2.3.1./0003/0065. We thank Lars Briggs (Denmark), Hauke Drews (Germany) for consultations; Kaare Fog (Denmark) for common expedition and finding of new localization in Ilgas; Sergius Kuzmin (Russia) for the cooperation and Janina Limanovica (Latvia) for the info about *B.bombina* in Sedere.

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