

First record of Horvath's rock lizard (*Iberolacerta horvathi*) in the Karavanke Mts., Slovenia

PRVA NAJDBA HORVATOVE KUŠČARICE
(*IBEROLACERTA HORVATHI*) V
KARAVANKAH, SLOVENIJA

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According to Krofel et al. (2009), the known distribution of Horvath's rock lizard (*Iberolacerta horvathi*) in Slovenia is limited to the Julian Alps, Trnovski gozd, Mt. Snežnik and Dinaric mountains. On June 13th, 2009, one female Horvath's rock lizard (Fig. 1) was found in the Dovžan Gorge (Dovžanova soteska) in Slovenian part of the Karavanke Mts. (UTM square VM43) at approximately 650 meters a. s. l. On that sunny day, the individual under consideration was observed at 15:30 on a poorly vegetated and steep road bank with a western exposition. The bank is situated on the edge of a mixed forest near a rock wall. The Dovžan Gorge was created by the river Tržiška Bistrica and has a northeast-southwest orientation.

This find is not surprising, since there are records of Horvath's rock lizard known from Austrian part of the Karavanke Mts. (Cabela et al. 2001). In Slovenia, new finds can be expected at additional localities in the Karavanke Mts. as well as in the Kamniško-Savinjske Alps, which are situated in the vicinity of the Dovžan Gorge. According to the habitat requirements by this species (Arnold 2002), a special attention should be given to the investigation of the deep wooded canyons at lower altitudes, to the open beech or conifer forests at higher altitudes, and to the areas above the tree-line.

Literature

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Figure 1. A female Horvath's Rock Lizard (*Iberolacerta horvathi*) from Dovžan Gorge, Karavanke Mts., Slovenia (photo: Vesna Cafuta).

Slika 1. Samica horvatove kuščarice (*Iberolacerta horvathi*) iz Dovžanove soteske, Karavanke, Slovenija (foto: Vesna Cafuta).