

NATRIX TESSELATA (diced snake). **MARINE HABITAT.** A diced snake (*Natrix tessellata*) was observed on the 7th of April 2004 between Georgiupoli and Petres on the northern shore of the Greek island of Crete. No rivers were seen to reach the sea within several kilometres of the locality. A large number of sea urchins (*Paracentrotus lividus*) were observed at this locality, indicating that the local salinity level does not fluctuate much, as echinoderms have a low tolerance for salinity fluctuations (Booolootian 1966. *Physiology of Echinodermata*. New York: John Wiley & Sons). Recently Pedro Galan reported on the marine occurrence of the European species *Natrix maura* (Galan 2004, Herpetological Review 35(1): 71). Occurrence of this species in pure seawater is not always due to habitat choice by the snakes, but can also be the result of passive drift (Lenk 2002, Zeitschrift für Feldherpetologie 9(2): 221-223). Whether the *N. tessellata* we observed drifted from an estuary or more permanently inhabited this locality is unknown. It was found hiding fully submerged below a rocky outcropping in a tide pool less than 2 metres from the sea, with only its head visible. The water of the tide pool was considerably warmer than that of the sea and contained small fish (Gobiidae) as possible prey. It seemed in good health and did not show any signs of malnourishment.

Submitted by **ARIE VAN DER MEIJDEN** and **YLENIA CHIARI**, Lehrstuhl für Zoologie und Evolutionsbiologie, Department of Biology, P.O. Box M 618, University of Konstanz, 78457 Konstanz, Germany (frog@arievandermeijden.nl and ylenia.chiari@uni-konstanz.de)