

Reptiles of Sardinia: updating the knowledge on their distribution

DANIELE SALVI¹, PIERLUIGI BOMBI²

¹ CIBIO, Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos, Campus Agrário de Vairão, 4485-661 Vairão, Portugal.

² Via Maria Giudice 23, I-00135 Rome, Italy. Corresponding author. E-mail: pierluigi.bombi@gmail.com

Submitted on: 2009, 22th October; revised on: 2010, 3rd March; accepted on: 2010, 29th July.

Abstract. Sardinia shows a clear lack of herpetological data due to an evident paucity of herpetological surveys. This gap of knowledge is worthy of attention, since Sardinia hosts a rich herpetofauna with a large proportion of endemic species, and distribution data are crucial for targeting conservation efforts. In this paper we provide new distribution data for Sardinian reptiles, with the aim of updating our knowledge on their specific distribution. Data were opportunistically recorded during ten years of field research in Sardinia, carried out in more than twenty campaigns from April 1999 to June 2009. All the eighteen reptile species belonging to the Sardinian fauna were recorded. A total amount of 293 faunistic data were collected from 178 different localities covering the entire study area. Within this dataset, 137 faunistic data fall outside known species' ranges as reported in the Atlas of Italian amphibians and reptiles. In conclusion, data presented here produced a remarkable increase of knowledge on Sardinian reptiles' distribution. Nevertheless, it should be evidenced that, notwithstanding the present updating, the knowledge of Sardinian reptiles' distribution is probably still far from being exhaustive. Thus, further investigations are strongly required for obtaining a complete picture and identifying conservation priorities in terms of isolated species/populations and areas of high diversity and endemism.

Keywords. Herpetofauna, reptiles, faunistics, Italy, Sardinia.

INTRODUCTION

The knowledge of species' distribution is crucial for their conservation. Thus, many studies focused on amphibian and reptile distribution in Italy. Most of these researches consisted in atlas projects carried out at different geographic scale, from single protected areas (e.g., Gentilli and Barbieri, 2002; Lapini, 2006), to several level of administrative units such as cities (e.g., Bologna et al., 2003), municipalities (e.g., Lapini, 1997), provinces (e.g.,

Fiacchini, 2003; Piazzini et al., 2005; Bologna et al., 2007), and regions (e.g., Doria and Salvidio, 1994; Mazzotti et al., 1999; Bologna et al., 2000; Vanni and Nistri, 2006). Local atlas projects have represented a first step towards the synthesis of data coming from a plethora of different sources, from bibliographic data and museum collections, to field observations by volunteers and researchers. The importance of these atlases appears evident in their role of sound and reliable basis for conservation initiatives and prioritization proposals (e.g., Brotons et al., 2004; Araújo et al., 2004; Rodríguez et al., 2006). A national-scale project started in 1994 aimed to gather a preliminary picture on the distribution of amphibians and reptiles found in Italy (Societas Herpetologica Italica, 1996). In recent times this large amount of data has been further updated and increased leading to a cartographic synthesis in the CKmap project (Stoch, 2000-2005) and in the Atlas of the Italian Amphibians and Reptiles (Sindaco et al., 2006). This book represents the state of the art of the knowledge on the distribution of amphibians and reptiles in Italy and is based on more than 70,000 records. The overall coverage of these data is on the whole relatively good, except for two regions, as evidenced by the same authors. Basilicata and Sardinia regions show a clear lack of herpetological data (Sindaco et al., 2006: p. 132). Concerning Sardinia, but this is probably true also for Basilicata, this pattern comes from an evident paucity of herpetological surveys rather than a low level of herpetological diversity as evidenced by preliminary data reported in Bombi and Salvi (2008). This gap of knowledge is worthy of attention, since Sardinia hosts a rich and distinctive herpetofauna with a large proportion of endemic species, and distribution data are crucial for targeting conservation efforts. Concerning reptiles, Sardinia is inhabited by 18 recognised species, representing 35% of the reptiles diversity found in Italy (Sindaco et al., 2006). Three species are endemic to Sardinia and Corsica, *Algyrodes fitzingeri*, *Podarcis tiliguerta*, *Archaeolacerta bedriagae* (Lacertidae), and another, *Euleptes europaea* (Sphaerodactylidae), is sub-endemic to these two islands being also present in some coastal localities of Tuscany and Liguria (Italy). *Podarcis sicula* (Lacertidae) and *Natrix natrix* (Colubridae) occur in Sardinia with distinctive populations respect to those spread on the continent, and are considered as Sardinian endemic subspecies (*P. s. cetti*) or even incipient species (*N. n. cetti*) (Thorpe, 1980; Aprea et al., 2000). Most of Sardinian reptiles have a high intrinsic conservation value and are listed as species with conservation priorities in the annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (*Euleptes europaea*, *Emys orbicularis*, *Testudo hermanni*, *Testudo graeca*, and *Testudo marginata*) or considered threatened in the IUCN red list (e.g., *Natrix natrix cetti* as Critically Endangered) (IUCN, 2010).

To date no one paper reviewed the knowledge about the entire Sardinian herpetological diversity at a regional scale, while several studies are available for specific areas (e.g. Cesaraccio and Lanza, 1984; Poggesi et al., 1996) or single species (Lecis and Norris, 2003; Bombi and Vignoli, 2004). The aim of this paper is providing new distribution data for Sardinian reptiles, from an investigation carried out throughout Sardinia, and updating our knowledge of Sardinian reptiles distribution.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We considered the entire territory of the Sardinian region, amounting to more than 24,000 km². Sardinia is the second-largest island of Italy and in general of the Mediterranean Sea, placed south to

the island of Corsica, west from the Italian Peninsula, north from Tunisia, and east from the Balearic Islands. It has a Mediterranean climate, with rainfall concentrated in autumn and winter and hot/dry summers, which supports characteristic Mediterranean forests, woodlands, and scrub vegetation.

Contextually to a ten-years long field-based research in Sardinia, focused on ecology, distribution and phylogeography of some endemic reptile species (e.g. Bombi et al., 2009a, 2009b; Salvi et al., 2010), faunistic observations were opportunistically recorded. Fieldwork was carried out in more than twenty campaigns from April 1999 to June 2009, with a field effort of approximatively 50 weeks of activity. We surveyed all the main Sardinian domains, including mountain, mid-elevation, coastal, and micro-insular sites, and considering different reptile habitats. Surveys were carried out mainly during day between 0800 h and 1900 h from April to October. Only original data from direct observations has been included in the present study. We focused our attention to terrestrial and fresh-water reptiles, thus excluding marine turtle species. We also excluded amphibian species because they need searching methodologies conflicting with our main field activity. Most of the individuals were captured by hands, nosed, or by means of rubber bands. Each captured animal was sexed, measured, photographed, and then released in the exact capture point. A low fraction of data came from road-killed specimens or from visual encounter surveys. Tracks of animal were not considered as indicator of species' presence since in most of the case they do not allow an unambiguous species identification. For each locality geographic coordinates were recorded by using a GPS device, and toponyms were assigned by identifying the closest locality reported in maps from the "Istituto Geografico Militare". For conservation reasons, in the light of the threatened status and vulnerability of many Sardinian species, we provided in Appendix 2 only low-resolution coordinates. More details shall be available from the authors upon specific request.

For each species, our data were compared with the currently known species distribution as reported in Sindaco et al. (2006). For each species we produced updated maps of distribution by overlapping our data with those from Sindaco et al. (2006) at 10×10 UTM grid scale. From these data we calculated the species richness per cell for identifying the hotspot of reptile diversity in Sardinia.

We utilised taxonomic names as in Sindaco et al. (2006) and we did not considered subspecies since for most of Sardinian reptiles the intraspecific taxonomy is under debate [e.g. for *Archaeolacerta bedriagae* (Salvi et al., 2009a, 2009b, 2010); for *Podarcis sicula* (Podnar et al., 2005); for *Podarcis tiliguerta* (Capula, 1996; Harris et al., 2005)].

RESULTS

All the 18 reptile species belonging to the Sardinian fauna were recorded. These species include: two Emydidae, three Testudinidae, three Gekkota, four Lacertidae, two Scincidae, and four Colubridae. The inventory of the sampled localities is provided in Appendix 2, and their location reported in Figure 1. A total amount of 293 faunistic data were collected from 178 different localities covering the entire study area. Within this dataset, 137 faunistic data fall outside UTM squares where species presence was documented before by Sindaco et al. (2006). These localities of occurrence produce an extension of the documented distribution ranges for of all but two species (i.e., *Chalcides chalcides* and *Hemorrhois hippocrepis*). In particular, *Emys orbicularis* has been observed in two localities outside its known range, *Trachemys scripta* in one, *Testudo hermanni* in two, *Testudo graeca* in one, *Testudo marginata* in one, *Euleptes europaea* in three, *Hemidactylus turcicus* in five, *Tarentola mauritanica* in nine, *Algyroides fitzingeri* in 12, *Archaeolacerta bedriagae* in one, *Podarcis tiliguerta* in 36, *Podarcis sicula* in 26, *Chalcides ocellatus* in 10, *Hierophis viridiflavus* in 24, *Natrix natrix* in one, and *Natrix maura* in three. The updating of Atlas

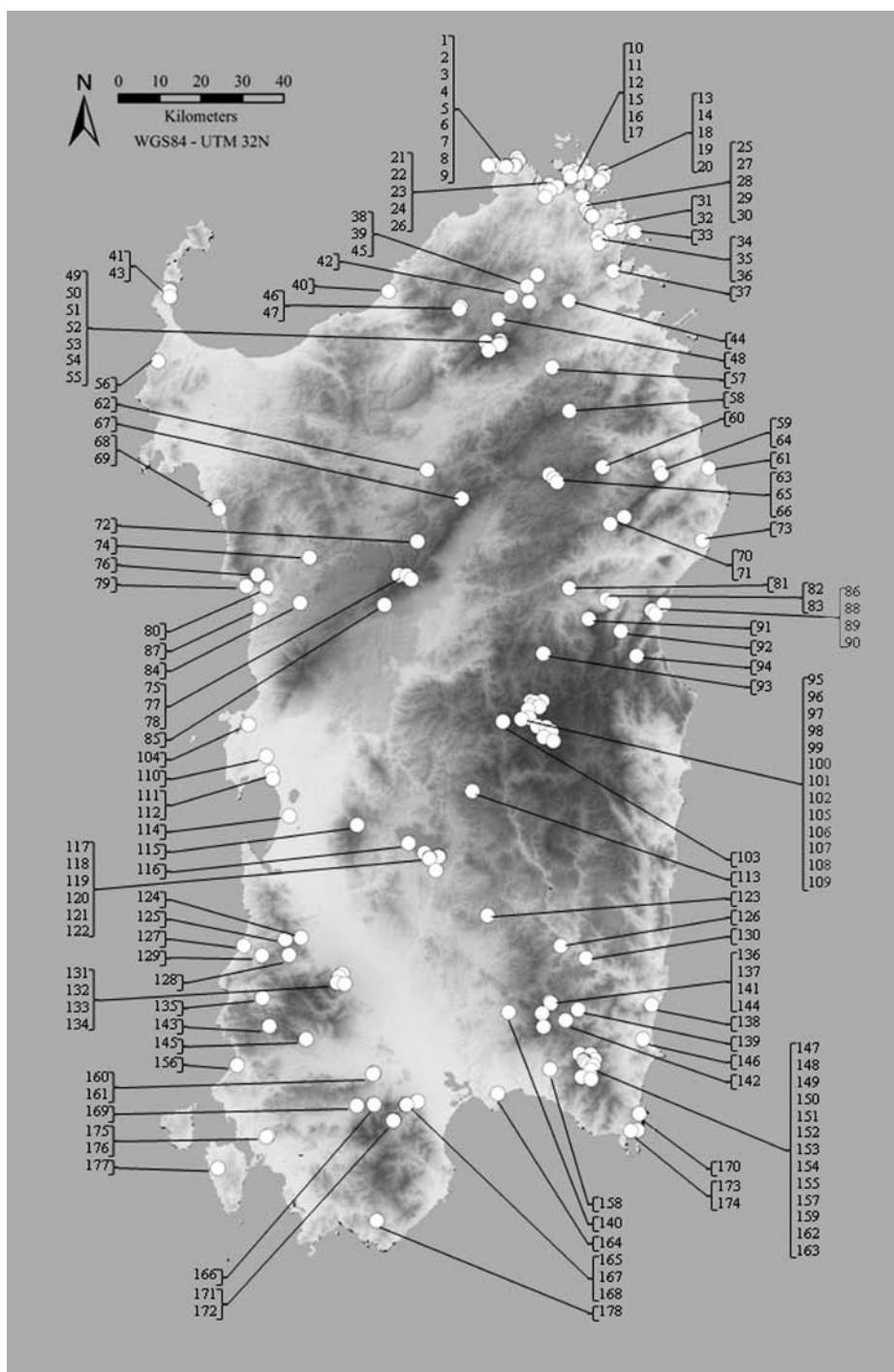


Fig. 1. Sampling localities. For details on geographic coordinates and toponyms see Appendix 2.

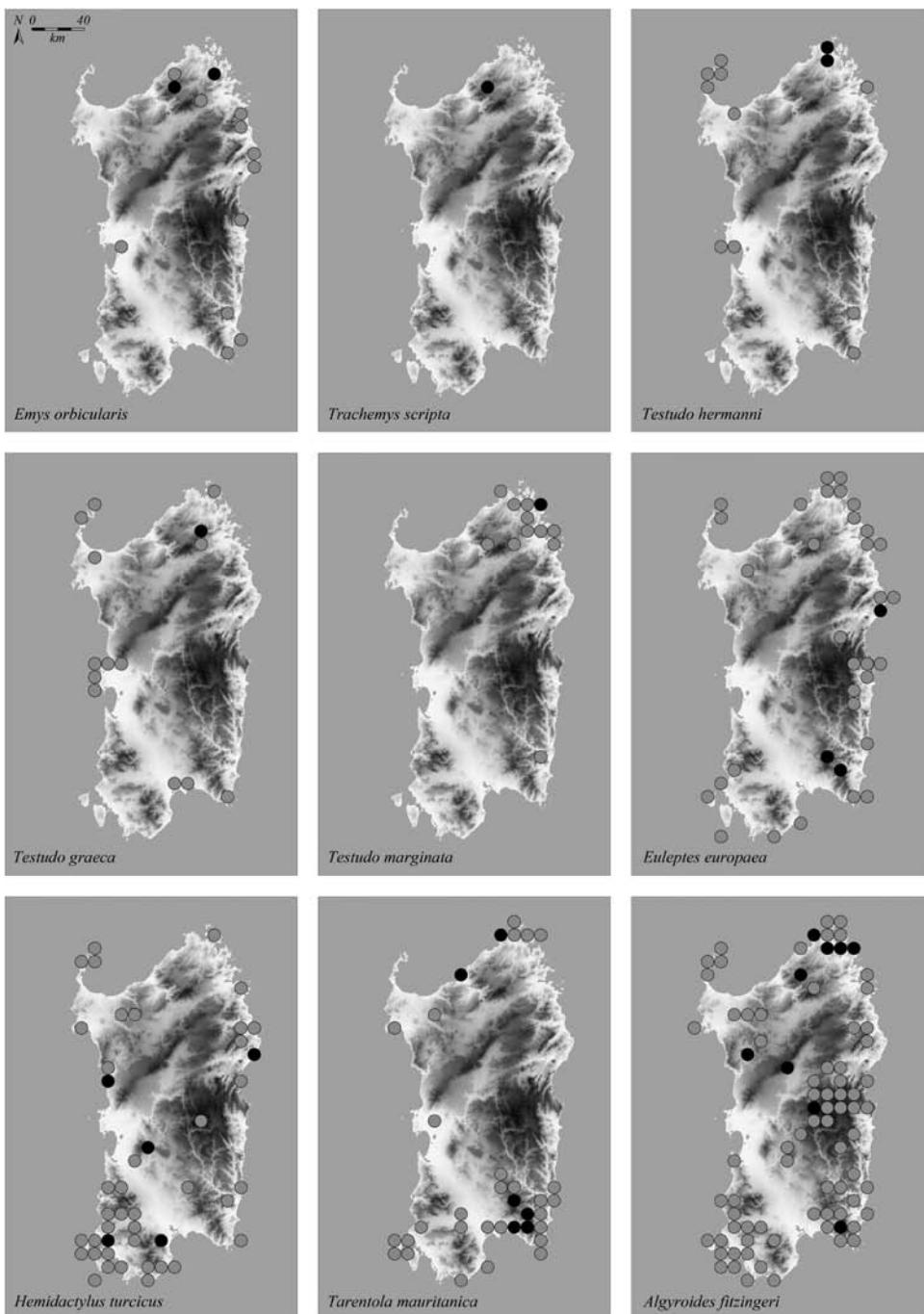


Fig. 2. Distribution maps for nine reptiles of Sardinia. Grey circles: UTM squares of presence reported in the Atlas of Italian amphibians and reptiles (Sindaco et al., 2006); black circles: new UTM squares of presence from this study.

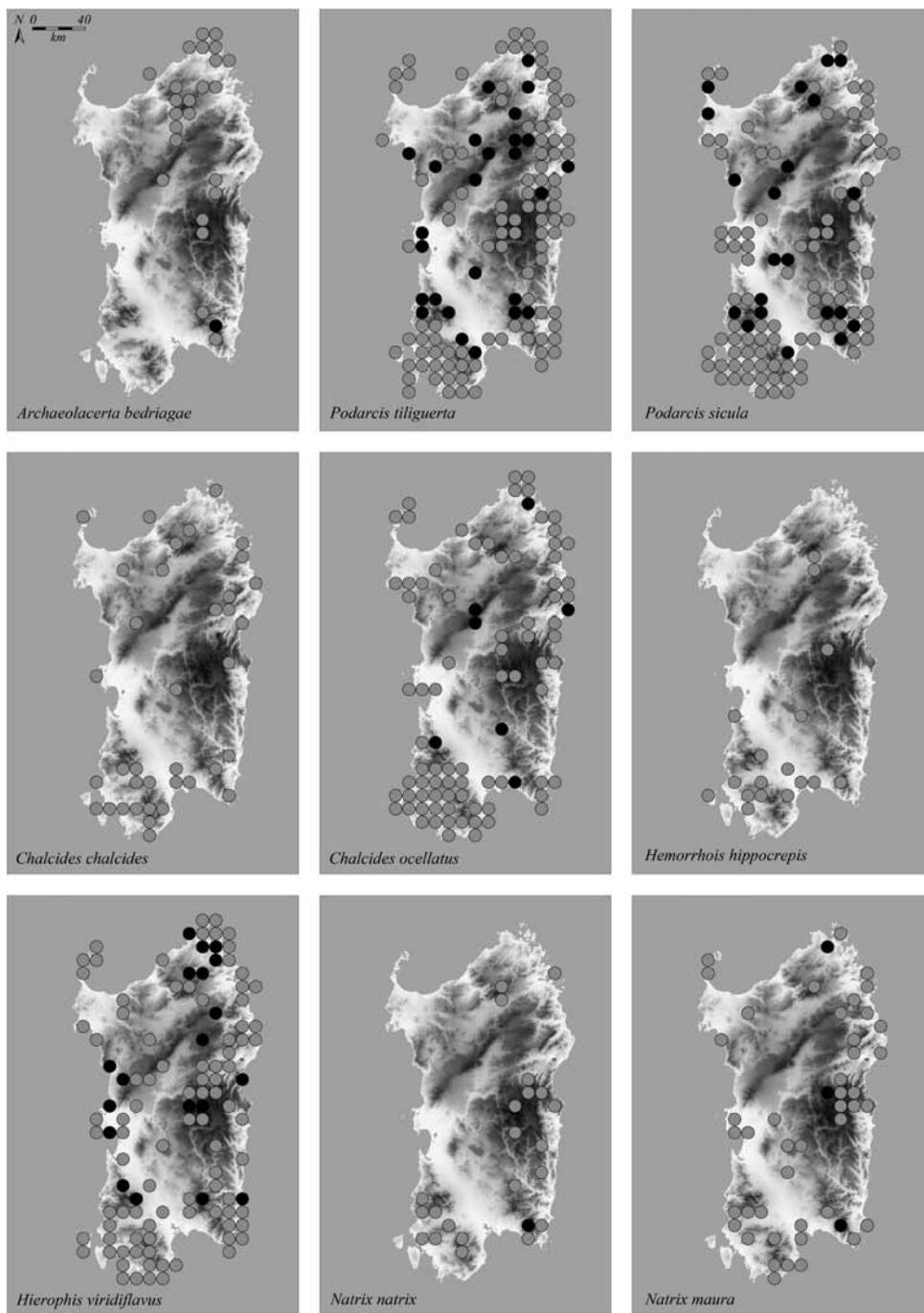


Fig. 3. Distribution maps for nine reptiles of Sardinia. Grey circles: UTM squares of presence reported in the Atlas of Italian amphibians and reptiles (Sindaco et al., 2006); black circles: new UTM squares of presence from this study.

Table 1. Number of UTM squares and number of localities for each species. In parentheses are evidenced the number of UTM squares where species' presence was not documented before and the number of localities falling in these cells.

| Species | Number of UTM squares | Number of localities |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Emys orbicularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | 2 (2) | 2 (2) |
| <i>Trachemys scripta</i> (Schoepff, 1792) | 1 (1) | 1 (1) |
| <i>Testudo hermanni</i> Gmelin, 1789 | 3 (2) | 3 (2) |
| <i>Testudo graeca</i> Linnaeus, 1758 | 1 (1) | 1 (1) |
| <i>Testudo marginata</i> (Schoepff, 1792) | 2 (1) | 2 (1) |
| <i>Euleptes europaea</i> (Gené, 1839) | 5 (3) | 5 (3) |
| <i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | 9 (5) | 9 (5) |
| <i>Tarentola mauritanica</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | 11 (6) | 17(9) |
| <i>Algyroides fitzingeri</i> (Wiegmann, 1834) | 16 (9) | 20 (12) |
| <i>Archaeolacerta bedriagae</i> (Camerano, 1885) | 14 (1) | 23 (1) |
| <i>Podarcis tiliguerta</i> (Gmelin, 1789) | 56 (26) | 99 (36) |
| <i>Podarcis sicula</i> Rafinesque-Schmaltz, 1810 | 38 (21) | 45 (26) |
| <i>Chalcides chalcides</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | 1 (0) | 1 (0) |
| <i>Chalcides ocellatus</i> (Forskål, 1775) | 9 (7) | 12 (10) |
| <i>Hemorrhois hippocrepis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | 1 (0) | 1 (0) |
| <i>Hierophis viridiflavus</i> (Lacépède, 1789) | 30 (19) | 43 (24) |
| <i>Natrix natrix</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | 3 (1) | 3 (1) |
| <i>Natrix maura</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | 4 (3) | 6 (3) |

maps from Sindaco et al. (2006) are provided in Figure 2 and 3. In Table 1 and in Appendix 1 are reported for each species the localities and UTM squares relative to their observation. The geographic pattern of reptile species richness is shown in Figure 4.

DISCUSSION

Data presented here produced a remarkable increase of knowledge on Sardinian reptiles distribution compare to that reported in the last available syntheses of the Atlas of Italian Amphibians and Reptiles (Sindaco et al., 2006). Among almost 300 data, 47% concerns localities placed outside the squares of documented presence as reported in above mentioned studies.

On the basis of the updated knowledge, it is possible to highlight that five species are widespread across Sardinia (*Algyroides fitzingeri*, *Podarcis tiliguerta*, *Podarcis sicula*, *Chal-*



Fig. 4. Distribution maps for reptile diversity in Sardinia. The number of species recorded in each cell is proportional to the relative gray tone (White = 0 species; Black = 12 species).

cides ocellatus, *Hierophis viridiflavus*). On the contrary, the other species are restricted to specific areas.

The distribution range has been significantly increased for two out of three endemic species (*A. fitzingeri* and *P. tiliguerta*). Concerning the endemic species *A. bedriagae* one data (Locality 148) would extend the range of this species in the northern part of the Sette Fratelli Mountains district. This area represents the southernmost portion of the species' range and it is of particular importance in the light of the isolation and distinctiveness of these southern populations (Guillaume, 1987; Bombi et al., 2009a, 2009b; Salvi et al., 2009a, 2009b).

The record of *Trachemys scripta* represents a serious threat for insular freshwater ecosystems. This threat is made still more real by the presence in the same area of *Emys orbicularis*. In fact, the interaction between these two species, even if its effect is controver-

sial, could lead to the extinction of the European pond terrapin. Recently, some other data have been reported for other areas of Sardinia (Bassu et al., 2008), suggesting a spreading of the red-eared terrapin across the Island. Thus, further surveys and deeper investigations should be planned for evaluating the current status of this species in the area and setting management action to avoid its further spread.

The finding of a new area where *Testudo hermanni* occurs, in the extreme North-East of the Island, is interesting for the conservation of this species. The Hermann's tortoise is known to be present in Sardinia only in localized and deeply isolated populations (Mazzotti, 2006; Bassu et al., 2008). In addition, it should be taken into account that this area is not protected, differently from other presence sites (i.e., Asinara Island and Sinis Peninsula). Therefore, this new area could represent a new opportunity for Hermann's tortoise conservation and specific measures should be focused on this area.

The horseshoe whip snake *Hemorrhois hippocrepis* is likely more common in southern Sardinia than believed and it could be hypothesized that its mainly nocturnal pattern of activity account for such underestimation (L. Luiselli, pers. comm.). Thus, we probably encountered this species just once because our fieldwork was concentrated during the day. It should be underlined that *H. hippocrepis* is one of the most endangered reptiles in Italy (Filippi and Luiselli, 2000). Therefore, the improvement of our understanding of the biology and distribution of the horseshoe whip snake assumes a crucial importance for guaranteeing the long-term conservation of this species.

Our surveys did not afford any data about *Zamenis longissimus* / *Z. lineatus*. Currently, the presence of this species in Sardinia is considered highly controversial. Two data from museum specimens have been referred to *Z. longissimus* or to *Z. lineatus* by different authors (see Razzetti and Zanghellini, 2006). Other two data, coming from field observations, were reported in Razzetti and Zanghellini (2006) and in Bassu et al. (2008), but in both cases not a single live specimen has been collected in Sardinia. Taking into account the large numbers of data collected for other snakes (e.g., 43 for *Hierophis viridiflavus*), we consider more likely *Z. longissimus* / *Z. lineatus* to be not present in Sardinia as autochthonous species, but at least present with localized acclimatized allochthonous individuals, as proposed by Puddu et al. (1998), despite further specific research should be carried out on these taxa.

The main hotspots of reptile diversity in Sardinia correspond to the Iglesiente area (south-western Sardinia), to the main mountain massifs of eastern Sardinia, and to some coastal areas of northern Sardinia. Most of this diversity hotspots represent also areas of endemism. Indeed, the Iglesiente district together with the main mountainous areas of eastern Sardinia (Sette Fratelli Mount, Gennargentu Massif, and Limbara Mount) host many of the endemic herpetofauna (e.g. *Archaeolacerta bedriagae*, *Natrix natrix cetti*, *Euproctus platycephalus*, *Speleomantes* species). This congruence has a double interest. On the one hand, it gives preliminary indications for selecting areas with high conservation priority. On the other hand, it would provide a intriguing scenario for testing biogeographic and evolutionary hypotheses, underlying the origin of the observed pattern of diversity and endemism.

In conclusion, data presented here give a significant contribution for clarifying the distribution of Sardinian reptiles and compiling the inventory of the reptiles diversity occurring in different areas of the Island. Nevertheless, it should be evidenced that, not

withstanding the present updating, the knowledge of Sardinian reptiles' distribution is probably still far from being exhaustive. Thus, further investigations are strongly required for obtaining a complete picture and identifying conservation priorities in terms of isolated species/populations and areas of high diversity and endemicity.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to thank several people, who have contributed to samplings or supported this research: C. Argiolas, D. Blam, M. A. Bologna, V. Bordoni, M. A. Carretero, R. Corbeddu, M. D'Amen, N. Cabitta, A. Devaddis, C. Fassò, D. J. Harris, A. Loddò, L. Luiselli, P. Mesina, I. Pasquale, D. Pinna, D. Spagnesi, P. Tolu, R. Xavier, and L. Vignoli. We would also thank for logistic support Oasi WWF - Monte Arcosu and Ente Foreste Demaniali Sardegna.

REFERENCES

- Aprea, G., Odierna, G., Capriglione, T., Caputo, V., Guarino, F.M. (2000): Analisi cromosomica in tre specie del genere *Natrix* Duméril (Reptilia, Squamata). *Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino* **00**: 419-424.
- Araújo, M.B., Densham, P.J., Williams, P.H. (2004): Representing species in reserves from patterns of assemblage diversity. *J. Biogeogr.* **31**: 1037-1050.
- Bassu, L., Nulchis, V., Satta, M.G., Fresi, C., Corti, C. (2008): Atlas of amphibians and reptiles of Sardinia - state of the art and general considerations. In: *Herpetologia Sardiniae*, p. 52-58. Corti, C., Ed, Societas Herpetologica Italica, Edizioni Belvedere, Latina, "le scienze" (8).
- Bologna, M.A., Capula, M., Carpaneto, G.M. (2000): Anfibi e rettili del Lazio, Fratelli Palombi Editori, Roma.
- Bologna, M.A., Capula, M., Carpaneto, G.M., Cignini, B., Marangoni, C., Venchi, A., Zapparoli, M. (2003): Anfibi e Rettilli a Roma, Atlante e guida delle specie presenti in città, Comune di Roma, Roma.
- Bologna, M.A., Salvi, D., Pitzalis, M. (2007): Atlante degli anfibi e rettili della provincia di Roma, Gangemi Editore, Roma.
- Bombi, P., Vignoli, L. (2004): Distribution, ecology and conservation of *Archaeolacerta bedriagae* in Sardinia (Reptilia, Lacertidae). *Ital. J. Zool.* **71**: Suppl. **1**: 135-144.
- Bombi, P., Salvi, D. (2008): La Rete Ecologica Sarda: verso un nuovo strumento per la conservazione della diversità erpetologica. In: *Herpetologia Sardiniae*, pp. 82-86. Corti, C., Ed, Societas Herpetologica Italica, Edizioni Belvedere, Latina, "le scienze" (8).
- Bombi, P., Salvi, D., Vignoli, L., Bologna, M.A. (2009a): Modelling Bedriaga's rock lizard distribution: an ensemble approach. *Amphibia-Reptilia* **30**: 413-424.
- Bombi, P., Salvi, D., Luiselli, L., Bologna, M.A. (2009b): Modelling correlates of microhabitat use of two sympatric lizards: a model selection approach. *Anim. Biol.* **59**: 109-126.
- Brotons, L., Thuiller, W., Araújo, M.B., Hirzel, A.H. (2004): Presence-absence versus presence-only modelling methods for predicting bird habitat suitability. *Ecography* **27**: 437-448.

- Capula, M. (1996): Evolutionary genetics of the insular lacertid lizard *Podarcis tiliguerta*: genetic structure and population heterogeneity in a geographically fragmented species. *Heredity* **77**: 518-529.
- Cesaraccio, G., Lanza, B. (1984): Nuovi dati sull'erpetofauna dell'arcipelago della Maddalena (Sardegna NE). *Boll. Soc. Sarda Sci. Nat.* **23**: 137-143.
- D'Amen, M., Bombi, P. (2009): Global warming and biodiversity: evidence for climate-linked amphibian declines in Italy. *Biological Conservation* **142**: 3060-3067.
- Doria, G., Salvidio, S. (1994): Atlante degli Anfibi e Rettili della Liguria. Catalogo dei beni Naturali 2, Servizio Beni Ambientali e Naturali, Regione Liguria, Genova.
- Fiacchini, D. (2003): Atlante degli Anfibi e dei Rettili della Provincia di Ancona. Nuove Ricerche, Ancona.
- Filippi, E., Luiselli, L. (2000): Status of the Italian snake-fauna and assessment of conservation threats. *Biol. Cons.* **93**: 219-225.
- Gentilli, A., Barbieri, F. (2002): Anfibi e rettili del Parco dell'Adamello e del Parco dell'Alto Garda Bresciano. Parco dell'Adamello, Parco dell'Alto Garda Bresciano, Gianico.
- Guillaume, C.P. (1987): Les petits Lacertidés du basin méditerranéen occidental (Généra *Podarcis* et *Archaeolacerta* essentiellement). Sur quelques problèmes d'ordre systématique et biogéographique. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. Université Montpellier.
- Harris, D.J., Pinho, C., Carretero, M.A., Corti, C., Böhme, W. (2005): Determination of genetic diversity within the insular lizard *Podarcis tiliguerta* using mtDNA sequence data, with a reassessment of the phylogeny of *Podarcis*. *Amphibia-Reptilia* **26**: 401-407.
- IUCN (2010): IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2010.4. <www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 25 November 2010.
- Lapini, L. (1997): Animali in città. Anfibi, Rettili e Mammiferi del Comune di Udine. Comune di Udine-Settore Attività Culturali ed Educative ed., Udine.
- Lapini, L. (2006): Anfibi e Rettili nel Parco Naturale Regionale delle Dolomiti Friulane. Atlante distributivo con osservazioni sulle comunità erpetologiche dell'area protetta e dintorni. 2. I libri del Parco. Parco Naturale Dolomiti Friulane ed., Cimolais, Pordenone.
- Lecis, R., Norris, K. (2003): Geographical distribution of the endemic Sardinian brook salamander *Euproctus platycephalus* and implications for its conservation. *Herpetol. J.* **13**: 125-133.
- Mazzotti, S., Caramori, G., Barbieri, C. (1999): Atlante degli Anfibi e Rettili dell'Emilia - Romagna (Aggiornamento 1993/1997). Quad. Staz. Ecol. Civ. St. nat. Ferrara, 12.
- Mazzotti, S. (2006): *Testudo hermanni*. In: *Atlas of Italian Amphibians and Reptiles*. Societas Herpetologica Italica, p. 390-395. Sindaco R., Doria G., Razzetti E., Bernini, F., Eds, Edizioni Polistampa, Firenze.
- Piazzini, S., Favilli, L., Manganelli, G. (2005): Atlante degli Anfibi della Provincia di Siena (1999-2004). Sistema delle Riserve Naturali della Provincia di Siena, Quaderni Naturalistici 1.
- Poggesi, M., Agnelli, P., Borri, M., Corti, C., Finotello, P.L., Lanza, B., Tosini, G. (1996): Erpetologia delle isole circumsarde. *Biogeographia n.s.* **18**: 583-618.
- Podnar, M., Mayer, W., Tvrtković, N. (2005): Phylogeography of the Italian wall lizard, *Podarcis sicula*, as revealed by mitochondrial DNA sequences. *Mol. Ecol.* **14**: 575-588

- Puddu, F., Viarengo, M., Erminio, C. (1998): Animali di Sardegna. Gli Anfibi e i Rettili. Edizioni Della Torre, Cagliari.
- Razzetti, E., Zanghellini, S. (2006): *Zamenis longissimus* (Laurenti, 1768) / *Zamenis lineatus* (Camerano, 1891). In: Atlas of Italian Amphibians and Reptiles. Societas Herpetologica Italica, p. 576-583. Sindaco R., Doria G., Razzetti E., Bernini, F., Eds, Edizioni Polistampa, Firenze.
- Rodríguez, J.P., Brotons, L., Bustamante, J., Seoane, J. (2006): The application of predictive modelling of species distribution to biodiversity conservation. *Divers. Distrib.* **13**: 243-251.
- Salvi, D., Capula, M., Bombi, P., Bologna, M.A. (2009a): How many *Archaeolacerta* inhabit the Corso-Sardinian Plate? Allozyme variation and differentiation in *Archaeolacerta bedriagae* (Camerano, 1885). *Amphibia-Reptilia* **30**: 463-470.
- Salvi, D., Capula, M., Bombi, P., Bologna, M.A. (2009b): Genetic variation and its evolutionary implications in a Mediterranean island endemic lizard. *Biol. J. Linn. Soc.* **98**: 661-676.
- Salvi, D., Harris, D.J., Bombi, P., Carretero, M.A., Bologna, M.A. (2010): Mitochondrial phylogeography of the Bedriaga's rock lizard, *Archaeolacerta bedriagae* (Reptilia: Lacertidae) endemic to Corsica and Sardinia. *Mol. Phyl. Evol.* **56**: 690-697.
- Sindaco, R., Doria, G., Razzetti, E., Bernini, F., Eds (2006): Atlas of Italian Amphibians and Reptiles. Societas Herpetologica Italica, Polistampa, Firenze.
- Societas Herpetologica Italica (1996): Atlante provvisorio degli Anfibi e dei Rettili italiani. *Ann. Mus. Civ. St. Nat. Genova* **91**: 95-178.
- Stoch, F. (2000-2005): CKmap 5.3. Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio, Dir. Prot. Nat. http://www.minambiente.it/index.php?id_sezione=1930.
- Thorpe, R.S. (1980): Racial affinities and geographic variation: comparison of the use of multivariate morphometrics and conventional subspecies. *Proc. Euro. Herp. Symp.* Oxford, 5-6.
- Vanni, S., Nistri, A. (2006): Atlante degli Anfibi e dei Rettili della Toscana. Regione Toscana, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Museo di Storia Naturale, Sezione Zoologica "La Specola", Firenze.

Appendix 1 - Localities of observation for each species. In bold are evidenced localities falling outside the UTM squares where species presence is currently known.

| Family | Species | Localities |
|--------------|--|--|
| Emydidae | <i>Emys orbicularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | 35, 47 |
| | <i>Trachemys scripta</i> (Schoepff, 1792) | 47 |
| Testudinidae | <i>Testudo hermanni</i> Gmelin, 1789 | 21, 23, 170 |
| | <i>Testudo graeca</i> Linnaeus, 1758 | 38 |
| | <i>Testudo marginata</i> (Schoepff, 1792) | 9, 31 |
| Gekkonidae | <i>Euleptes europaea</i> (Gené, 1839) | 21, 31, 73, 137, 142 |
| | <i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | 15, 61, 73, 87, 115, 124, 156, 167, 175 |
| | <i>Tarentola mauritanica</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | 7, 10, 15, 19, 20, 40, 137, 142, 146, 150, 152, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 177 |
| Lacertidae | <i>Algyroides fitzingeri</i> (Wiegmann, 1834) | 1, 2, 6, 10, 22, 25, 26, 31, 46, 49, 50, 74, 77, 88, 91, 102, 103, 118, 152, 158 |
| | <i>Archaeolacerta bedriagae</i> (Camerano, 1885) | 1, 5, 10, 19, 20, 25, 31, 44, 46, 49, 51, 54, 77, 91, 109, 137, 148, 149, 150, 151, 154, 155, 157 |
| | <i>Podarcis tiliguerta</i> (Gmelin, 1789) | 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 12, 14, 18, 19, 20, 25, 30, 31, 32, 33, 37, 43, 44, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 86, 88, 89, 90, 91, 94, 96, 99, 101, 105, 106, 107, 108, 110, 112, 113, 117, 118, 119, 120, 125, 126, 127, 129, 132, 133, 135, 136, 137, 139, 141, 144, 145, 147, 148, 149, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 157, 159, 160, 162, 163, 166, 168, 169, 170, 171, 177, 178 |
| Scincidae | <i>Podarcis sicula</i> Rafinesque-Schmaltz, 1810 | 15, 23, 25, 41, 47, 48, 56, 57, 68, 72, 76, 83, 85, 92, 110, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 119, 120, 121, 122, 124, 125, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 139, 141, 143, 144, 145, 146, 156, 160, 163, 165, 176 |
| | <i>Chalcides chalcides</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | 174 |
| | <i>Chalcides ocellatus</i> (Forskål, 1775) | 25, 29, 30, 61, 72, 73, 78, 123, 124, 128, 156, 158 |
| Colubridae | <i>Hemorrhois hippocrepis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | 164 |
| | <i>Hierophis viridiflavus</i> (Lacépède, 1789) | 1, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 20, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39, 42, 45, 58, 66, 68, 77, 80, 82, 84, 89, 97, 100, 102, 104, 108, 111, 124, 132, 138, 140, 141, 160, 161, 166, 173, 174 |
| | <i>Natrix natrix</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | 95, 98, 152 |
| | <i>Natrix maura</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | 23, 55, 93, 152, 166, 172 |

Appendix 2 - Sampling localities. Coordinates are provided in decimal degree format. Locality IDs correspond to those reported in the map in Figure 1.

| Locality ID | IGM Toponym | Municipal district | Latitude | Longitude |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1 | Punta Falcone | Santa Teresa di Gallura | 41,26 | 9,23 |
| 2 | Faro Di Punta Falcone | Santa Teresa di Gallura | 41,25 | 9,23 |
| 3 | P. Acuta | Santa Teresa di Gallura | 41,24 | 9,16 |
| 4 | La Ficaccia 1 | Santa Teresa di Gallura | 41,24 | 9,22 |
| 5 | Capo Testa | Santa Teresa di Gallura | 41,24 | 9,14 |
| 6 | La Ficaccia 2 | Santa Teresa di Gallura | 41,24 | 9,22 |
| 7 | S. Teresa Gallura | Santa Teresa di Gallura | 41,24 | 9,19 |
| 8 | Porto Di Longone | Santa Teresa di Gallura | 41,24 | 9,19 |
| 9 | La Torraccia | Santa Teresa di Gallura | 41,24 | 9,19 |
| 10 | P.ta Dei Colmi | La Maddalena | 41,23 | 9,39 |
| 11 | C. Guardioli | La Maddalena | 41,23 | 9,42 |
| 12 | Madonnetta | La Maddalena | 41,23 | 9,37 |
| 13 | Becco Di Vela | La Maddalena | 41,23 | 9,47 |
| 14 | Poggio Stefano | La Maddalena | 41,23 | 9,48 |
| 15 | C. Susini | La Maddalena | 41,23 | 9,43 |
| 16 | Guardia Vecchia | La Maddalena | 41,22 | 9,40 |
| 17 | P. Nido D'Aquila | La Maddalena | 41,22 | 9,38 |
| 18 | Ferracciolo | La Maddalena | 41,22 | 9,47 |
| 19 | Teialone | La Maddalena | 41,21 | 9,47 |
| 20 | Pietraiaccio | La Maddalena | 41,21 | 9,46 |
| 21 | L'Isuledda | Palau | 41,20 | 9,32 |
| 22 | M. Iacheddu | Palau | 41,19 | 9,34 |
| 23 | La Sciumara | Santa Teresa di Gallura | 41,19 | 9,31 |
| 24 | Bonifica Di Barrabisa | Palau | 41,19 | 9,32 |
| 25 | L'Orso | Palau | 41,17 | 9,41 |
| 26 | St.zi Pittorra | Santa Teresa di Gallura | 41,17 | 9,31 |
| 27 | M. Piseddu | Arzachena | 41,15 | 9,43 |
| 28 | St.zo Silvaredda | Arzachena | 41,14 | 9,43 |
| 29 | Rio Mannu | Arzachena | 41,13 | 9,44 |
| 30 | P. Arzachena | Arzachena | 41,13 | 9,44 |
| 31 | M. Moro | Arzachena | 41,11 | 9,52 |
| 32 | Nibbaraggia | Arzachena | 41,10 | 9,50 |
| 33 | P.ta Rumazzino | Arzachena | 41,09 | 9,56 |
| 34 | C. Nuova | Arzachena | 41,08 | 9,46 |
| 35 | R. Di Petralonga | Arzachena | 41,08 | 9,47 |
| 36 | R. Di L'Umpitrato | Arzachena | 41,07 | 9,46 |
| 37 | Cugnana | Olbia | 41,01 | 9,50 |
| 38 | M. Lu Naracu | Sant'Antonio di Gallura | 41,00 | 9,28 |
| 39 | M.giu Santu | Calangianus | 40,98 | 9,25 |
| 40 | Li Lunchi | Badesi | 40,97 | 8,86 |
| 41 | L'Approdo | Stintino | 40,97 | 8,23 |
| 42 | M. Attunisi | Luras | 40,96 | 9,21 |

| Locality ID | IGM Toponym | Municipal district | Latitude | Longitude |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|-----------|
| 43 | Cala Di Vacca | Stintino | 40,95 | 8,23 |
| 44 | M. Pino | Telti | 40,95 | 9,37 |
| 45 | Catala | Calangianus | 40,94 | 9,26 |
| 46 | M. Della Croce | Aggius | 40,93 | 9,06 |
| 47 | R. Le Prugne | Aggius | 40,93 | 9,06 |
| 48 | St.zo L'Agnulu | Calangianus | 40,91 | 9,17 |
| 49 | Li Reni | Tempio Pausania | 40,86 | 9,18 |
| 50 | Campianatu | Tempio Pausania | 40,86 | 9,13 |
| 51 | P.ta Balistreri | Tempio Pausania | 40,85 | 9,18 |
| 52 | Mad.na Della Neve | Tempio Pausania | 40,85 | 9,17 |
| 53 | Giugantinu | Tempio Pausania | 40,85 | 9,17 |
| 54 | Sa Berritta | Tempio Pausania | 40,85 | 9,17 |
| 55 | Rio Contra Manna | Berchidda | 40,84 | 9,14 |
| 56 | Lampianu | Sassari | 40,81 | 8,20 |
| 57 | P.ta Turrita | Monti | 40,80 | 9,32 |
| 58 | Font.na Di Nicolau | Ala' dei Sardi | 40,71 | 9,37 |
| 59 | Cant.ra Di S. Anna | Ianna de Sant'Anna | 40,58 | 9,63 |
| 60 | Funt.na Patronu | Bitti | 40,58 | 9,47 |
| 61 | S. Lucia | Siniscola | 40,58 | 9,77 |
| 62 | Pinn.ta Tres Montes | Ozieri | 40,58 | 8,97 |
| 63 | N.ghe Loelle | Budduso' | 40,57 | 9,32 |
| 64 | Font.na Sa Mela | Siniscola | 40,57 | 9,64 |
| 65 | F. Tirso | Budduso' | 40,56 | 9,33 |
| 66 | Sa Janna Renosa | Bitti | 40,55 | 9,34 |
| 67 | M. Mesanu | Bultei | 40,52 | 9,07 |
| 68 | M. Fgheras | Villanova Monteleone | 40,50 | 8,37 |
| 69 | M. Romasino | Villanova Monteleone | 40,49 | 8,37 |
| 70 | Monte Albo | Lula | 40,47 | 9,53 |
| 71 | Pizzonchi | Lula | 40,46 | 9,49 |
| 72 | Foresta Burgos | Burgos | 40,42 | 8,94 |
| 73 | Sa Minda | Orosei | 40,42 | 9,75 |
| 74 | Funt.na Coloras | Padria | 40,39 | 8,63 |
| 75 | Tres Funtanas | Bolotana | 40,35 | 8,89 |
| 76 | C. Scala E Attos | Bosa | 40,35 | 8,48 |
| 77 | N.ghe Ortachis | Bolotana | 40,35 | 8,91 |
| 78 | P.ta Palai | Bolotana | 40,34 | 8,92 |
| 79 | C. Tentizzos | Bosa | 40,32 | 8,45 |
| 80 | M. Muradu | Bosa | 40,32 | 8,51 |
| 81 | S. N. De Su Monte | Nuoro | 40,32 | 9,37 |
| 82 | P.te Di Olos | Oliena | 40,30 | 9,48 |
| 83 | Sorg.te De Su Cologone | Oliena | 40,29 | 9,49 |
| 84 | Cant.ra Abbadtzu | Suni | 40,29 | 8,61 |
| 85 | Portolato | Bortigali | 40,28 | 8,85 |
| 86 | Calagonone | Dorgali | 40,28 | 9,64 |
| 87 | C.le S. Giorgio | Bosa | 40,28 | 8,49 |

| Locality ID | IGM Toponym | Municipal district | Latitude | Longitude |
|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------|
| 88 | Sollapiolos | Dorgali | 40,27 | 9,60 |
| 89 | M. Bonacoa | Dorgali | 40,27 | 9,61 |
| 90 | Nuragheddu | Dorgali | 40,26 | 9,62 |
| 91 | Giulia | Oliena | 40,25 | 9,43 |
| 92 | Maidreu | Dorgali | 40,23 | 9,52 |
| 93 | Gianna Ferru | Mamoiada | 40,18 | 9,30 |
| 94 | Codula De Luna | Urzulei | 40,17 | 9,56 |
| 95 | Donurtei | Fonni | 40,07 | 9,26 |
| 96 | M. Spada | Fonni | 40,07 | 9,29 |
| 97 | Cu.le Qualbu | Fonni | 40,07 | 9,27 |
| 98 | Riu Su Trocu | Fonni | 40,06 | 9,26 |
| 99 | Funt.na Masiai | Fonni | 40,06 | 9,28 |
| 100 | Qu.le Sos Beraniles | Fonni | 40,06 | 9,25 |
| 101 | Qu.le Is Rulas | Desulo | 40,04 | 9,26 |
| 102 | Funt.na Curadore | Desulo | 40,03 | 9,23 |
| 103 | Tala Sazias | Tonara | 40,03 | 9,18 |
| 104 | Zerroi | San Vero Milis | 40,02 | 8,46 |
| 105 | Sa Code | Desulo | 40,02 | 9,28 |
| 106 | Br.cu Spina | Villagrande Strisaili | 40,02 | 9,30 |
| 107 | Arcu Gennargentu | Villagrande Strisaili | 40,01 | 9,32 |
| 108 | Funt.na 'E Piraona | Desulo | 40,00 | 9,30 |
| 109 | P.ta La Marmora | Arzana | 39,99 | 9,32 |
| 110 | St.gno Pauli E Sali | Cabras | 39,95 | 8,51 |
| 111 | Parduierru | Cabras | 39,92 | 8,53 |
| 112 | Can.le Brabbau | Oristano | 39,90 | 8,53 |
| 113 | C.lo 'E S'Accu 'E Su Suergiu | Laconi | 39,88 | 9,09 |
| 114 | Idrov. A Sassu | Arborea | 39,82 | 8,58 |
| 115 | Su Varongu | Pau | 39,80 | 8,77 |
| 116 | Scala Seremida | Sini | 39,76 | 8,91 |
| 117 | Pauli Maiori | Tuili | 39,74 | 8,96 |
| 118 | Pauli 'E Palla Cammisa | Gesturi | 39,74 | 9,00 |
| 119 | Funt.na Ortu | Gesturi | 39,74 | 9,00 |
| 120 | Arridroxiiu | Tuili | 39,73 | 8,97 |
| 121 | S. Luisa | Tuili | 39,73 | 8,97 |
| 122 | Su Nuraxi | Barumini | 39,71 | 8,99 |
| 123 | Planu Senis | Suelli | 39,61 | 9,14 |
| 124 | Perda Quaddu | Guspini | 39,56 | 8,61 |
| 125 | Montevecchio | Guspini | 39,55 | 8,57 |
| 126 | S.S. Del Gerre | Ballao | 39,54 | 9,34 |
| 127 | Piscinas | Arbus | 39,54 | 8,45 |
| 128 | P.ta Cugui | Arbus | 39,52 | 8,58 |
| 129 | R. Casciera | Arbus | 39,52 | 8,50 |
| 130 | F. Flumendosa | Armungia | 39,51 | 9,41 |
| 131 | Sa Mandara | Villacidro | 39,48 | 8,73 |
| 132 | Coddu De Su Medaueddu | Villacidro | 39,47 | 8,72 |
| 133 | R. Coxinas | Villacidro | 39,46 | 8,71 |

| Locality ID | IGM Toponym | Municipal district | Latitude | Longitude |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------|-----------|
| 134 | Villacidro | Villacidro | 39,46 | 8,73 |
| 135 | Lavera | Fluminimaggiore | 39,43 | 8,50 |
| 136 | Sa Domo De Sani | Villasalto | 39,42 | 9,31 |
| 137 | Br.cu Berritta | Villasalto | 39,42 | 9,31 |
| 138 | Costa Pireddu | Muravera | 39,41 | 9,60 |
| 139 | Qu.le Sa Gotti Sa Perda | Burcei | 39,40 | 9,39 |
| 140 | Is Cucureddus | Dolianova | 39,40 | 9,20 |
| 141 | Cuili Piccinnu | Sinnai | 39,39 | 9,29 |
| 142 | Su Piroi | Burcei | 39,38 | 9,36 |
| 143 | P.ta Cucurnia | Iglesias | 39,37 | 8,52 |
| 144 | Serpeddieddu | Sinnai | 39,36 | 9,29 |
| 145 | S. Giovanni | Domusnovas | 39,34 | 8,63 |
| 146 | Cuili Becciu | Muravera | 39,34 | 9,57 |
| 147 | Campu Omo | Sinnai | 39,31 | 9,39 |
| 148 | Mitza Poni Fogu | Sinnai | 39,30 | 9,43 |
| 149 | Punta Sa Ceraxa | Sinnai | 39,29 | 9,44 |
| 150 | Riu Maidopis 1 | Sinnai | 39,29 | 9,41 |
| 151 | Riu Maidopis 2 | Sinnai | 39,29 | 9,41 |
| 152 | Riu Maidopis 3 | Sinnai | 39,29 | 9,41 |
| 153 | Riu Maidopis 4 | Sinnai | 39,29 | 9,41 |
| 154 | Perd 'Asub' 'E Pari | Sinnai | 39,28 | 9,42 |
| 155 | Aqueddas 1 | Sinnai | 39,28 | 9,43 |
| 156 | Rio Samasa | Gonnese | 39,28 | 8,43 |
| 157 | Aqueddas 2 | Sinnai | 39,28 | 9,43 |
| 158 | C. Cappai | Maracalagonis | 39,27 | 9,31 |
| 159 | Arcu Su Crabiolu | Sinnai | 39,27 | 9,43 |
| 160 | Cast.O D'Acquafrredda | Siliqua | 39,26 | 8,82 |
| 161 | C. Deas | Siliqua | 39,26 | 8,82 |
| 162 | N.ghe Sa Fraigada | Sinnai | 39,26 | 9,40 |
| 163 | Dispensa Vecchia | Sinnai | 39,25 | 9,43 |
| 164 | Su Rulloni | Cagliari | 39,22 | 9,16 |
| 165 | S. Lucia | Uta | 39,20 | 8,94 |
| 166 | C. Camboni | Siliqua | 39,20 | 8,82 |
| 167 | Can.le Sperrimeddas | Uta | 39,20 | 8,91 |
| 168 | Sa Canna | Uta | 39,20 | 8,91 |
| 169 | Sera Cannisoni | Siliqua | 39,19 | 8,77 |
| 170 | Riu Su Strumpu | Castiadas | 39,17 | 9,56 |
| 171 | C. Perdu Melis 1 | Uta | 39,16 | 8,87 |
| 172 | C. Perdu Melis 2 | Uta | 39,16 | 8,87 |
| 173 | Molentis | Villasimius | 39,14 | 9,56 |
| 174 | Manunzas | Villasimius | 39,14 | 9,54 |
| 175 | Sa Tanca | San Giovanni Suergiu | 39,13 | 8,52 |
| 176 | Is Pes | San Giovanni Suergiu | 39,12 | 8,52 |
| 177 | Sa Corona Arrubia | Calasetta | 39,05 | 8,38 |
| 178 | P.te S'Accorradroxu | Domus De Maria | 38,94 | 8,83 |

