



Cat Snake

There are no venomous lizard or frog species, but approximately 30 % of the Cyprus snake species are venomous. Cat Snake and Eastern Montpellier Snake are usually harmless unless they bite thin regions such as fingers, because their fangs are way back in their upper jaws and are unlikely to pierce the skin. However, the Blunt-nosed Viper which may be encountered, especially during the night time in open grasslands, rocky- stony areas in Cyprus may be dangerous to small and large mammals and even to man being venomous and having a large pair of venom fangs in front of its upper jaw.



Blunt Nose Viper

If you are bitten by a venomous snake the following first-aid procedure should be done;

- Victim should be reassured and calmed.
- The bite area should be immobilized, movement may spread the venom.
- Prompt medical attention should be sought, preferably at a hospital with viper antivenin facilities.
- If medical attention is likely to be delayed for over an hour, a firm (but not tight) ligature can be applied above the bite area to retard the spreading the venom. Cutting with a sterile razor or sucking of the wound is not recommended since the former may lead to shock and the latter to secondary poisoning. Washing the wound with strong disinfectants or with potassium permanganate solution should also be avoided. In some highly sensitive people (to snake venom) the bite is immediately followed by a collapse. Medical attention should be given to them as soon as possible.



Blunt Nose Viper



Cat Snake



Cat Snake



Balkan Terrapin



Montpellier Snake



Large Whip Snake



Large Whip Snake



Large Whip Snake



Coin Snake

North Cyprus



Reptiles & Amphibians



Reptiles

Herpetology is the science of reptiles and amphibians. It is formed by the words herpeton (meaning reptile) and logos (meaning science). Although the meaning of herpetology refers to reptile science amphibians are included under it's definition. Herpetofauna is all of the amphibians and reptiles that exist in a specific area.

The herpetofauna of North Cyprus is represented by 3 amphibian and 23 reptile species of which 3 are turtles (one of them is fresh water and two of them marine), 11 lizards and 9 snakes.



Starred Agama

Troodos Lizard



Ocellated Skink



Levantine Marsh Frog



European Chameleon



As an island, the biodiversity of Cyprus fauna is not as rich as that of continental Eastern Mediterranean countries. However, due to it's geographical isolation, endemism is high in Cyprus. In other words, as animals on Cyprus have been separated from their continental counterparts for such a long time, they have followed slightly different evolutionary pathways. The Troodos lizard is endemic to the island, found only on Cyprus. There are also 7 endemic subspecies.

Geological formation of the island occurred over three geologic time periods. Firstly, during the Palaeozoic, Troodos Mountains started to emerge as a single island. Then in the Mesozoic the Pentadactylos Mountains started to take shape as another island. During Cenozoic, by means of sea level changes, Mesaria plain took its last shape and formed the island as it is today. Cyprus is considered to have been isolated from the Anatolian mainland for around 5 million years. This isolation had a crucial role in forming the present day herpetofauna of Cyprus and may be the major factor for endemic reptile races.

Scientific Name

Ablepharus budaki budaki Göçmen et al, 1996
Chelcides ocellatus ocellatus (Forsskal, 1775)
Eumeces schneideri schneideri Daudin, 1802
Trachylepis vittata Olivier, 1804
Typhlops vermicularis Merrem, 1820
Dolichophis jugularis jugularis L., 1758
Platyceps najadum (Eichwald, 1831)
Hemorrhois nummifer (Reuss, 1834)
Eirenis levantinus Schmidtler, 1993
Natrix tessellata (Laurenti, 1768)
Telescopus fallax cyprica (Barbour-Amaral, 1927)
Malpoleon insignitus (Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1827)
Macrovipera lebetina lebetina L., 1758

Local Name

Budak's Skink
 Ocellated Skink
 Spotted Skink
 Striped Skink
 Worm Snake
 Large Whip Snake
 Dahl's Whip Snake
 Coin Snake
 Levantine Dwarf Snake
 Dice Snake
 Cat Snake
 Eastern Montpellier Snake
 Blunt-nosed Viper

Family Name

Scincidae
 Scincidae
 Scincidae
 Scincidae
 Typhlopidae
 Colubridae
 Colubridae
 Colubridae
 Colubridae
 Colubridae
 Colubridae
 Colubridae
 Colubridae
 Viperidae

Endemic Status

no
 no
 subspecies level
 no
 no
 no
 no
 no
 no
 no
 subspecies level
 no
 subspecies level

Scientific Name

Bufo viridis ssp. Laurenti, 1768
Hyla savignyi Audouin, 1827
Pelophylax cf. bedriagae Camerano, 1882
Mauremys rivulata Valenciennes, 1833
Caretta caretta Linnaeus, 1758
Chelonia mydas Linnaeus, 1758
Cyrtopodion kotschyti fitzingeri (Stepanek, 1937)
Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus L., 1758
Laudakia stellio cyprica (Daan, 1967)
Chamaeleo chamaeleon reticrista Boettger, 1880
Acanthodactylus schreiberi schreiberi Boulenger, 1879
Phonicolacerta troodica Werner, 1936
Ophisops elegans schlueteri Boettger, 1880

Local Name

Green Toad
 Lemon-yellow Tree Frog
 Levantine Marsh Frog
 Balkan Terrapin
 Loggerhead Turtle
 Green Turtle
 Kotschy's Gecko
 Turkish Gecko
 Starred Agama
 European Chameleon
 Spiny-footed Lizard
 Troodos Lizard
 Snake-eyed Lizard

Family Name

Bufo
 Hylidae
 Ranidae
 Geoemydidae
 Cheloniidae
 Cheloniidae
 Gekkonidae
 Gekkonidae
 Agamidae
 Chamaeleontidae
 Lacertidae
 Lacertidae
 Lacertidae

Endemic Status

no
 no
 no
 no
 no
 no
 subspecies level
 no
 subspecies level
 no
 no
 species level
 subspecies level



Turkish Gecko



Budak's Skink

Spotted Skink



For more information:
Tourism Promotion & Marketing Department
 Tel : +90 392 227 8153
 Fax: +90 392 228 5625

Tourism Offices Abroad

Tel: +90 212 227 34 90 - 116 Tel: +44 207 631 19 30
 Fax: +90 212 227 34 93 Fax: +44 207 462 97 89
Antalya **Berlin**
 Tel: +90 242 243 39 56 / 57 Tel: +49 308 892 94 84
 Fax: +90 242 243 39 58 Fax: +49 308 892 94 85



Text: Nazım Kaşot , Zoologist
 All photos belong to David Sparrow

www.kuskor.org