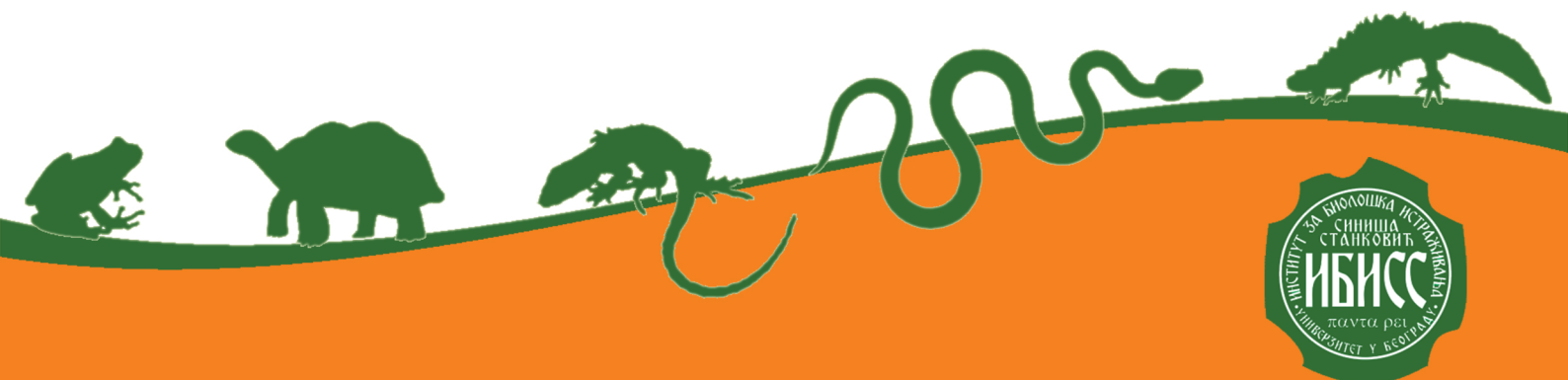




# Program & Book of Abstracts

Belgrade  
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Institute for Biological Research “Siniša Stanković”  
National Institute of Republic of Serbia  
University of Belgrade, Serbia

# **PROGRAM & BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

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## Biogeography and distribution

### *Poster presentation*

#### **Amphibians and reptiles of the Nature Park “Ulcinj Salina”, Montenegro**

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The Nature Park “Ulcinj Salina” is situated in the extreme southeastern part of Montenegro and covers the area of the former largest saltpans in the Mediterranean region. It is identified as Important Bird Area, Emerald Site, Ramsar Site and potential Natura 2000 site in Montenegro. After salt production had stopped a decade ago, a rather quick succession started, causing alternation in community structure in favor of non-salt tolerant species. So far, Ulcinj Salina has not been systematically surveyed for amphibians and reptiles and available data actually refer to a broader area of southern Montenegro. Here I present the results of batracho- and herpetofaunal surveys of Ulcinj Salina conducted during 2021. Five species of amphibians (*Bufo bufo*, *Bufo viridis*, *Hyla arborea*, *Pelophylax ridibundus* and *Pelophylax shqipericus*) and nine species of reptiles (*Testudo hermanni*, *Emys orbicularis*, *Lacerta trilineata*, *Podarcis melisellensis*, *Anguis graeca*, *Pseudopus apodus*, *Dolichophis caspius*, *Natrix natrix* and *Natrix tessellata*) were recorded. The greatest diversity of batracho- and herpetofauna was recorded along the northern parts of the Nature Park where the succession from saline to freshwater habitats was most evident. The most abundant but restricted to certain parts of the area were *P. ridibundus*, *E. orbicularis* and *P. melisellensis*. A monitoring procedure is proposed for *P. shqipericus*, *T. hermanni* and *E. orbicularis* as species of special conservation importance. Currently Ulcinj Salina presents a refuge for amphibians and reptiles of the coastal wetlands of southern Montenegro that are exposed to a variety of threats due to rapid urbanization and pollution. Since the revitalization of salt production and establishment of a sustainable tourism is planned in Ulcinj Salina, adequate mitigation measures and maintenance of certain basins and channels in current freshwater state are necessary to preserve amphibians and reptiles of this Nature Park.