

A NEW NORTHERNMOST RECORD OF THE MOSOR ROCK LIZARD *DINAROLACERTA MOSORENSIS* (KOLOMBATOVIĆ, 1886) FROM BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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Abstract

The Mosor rock lizard, *Dinarolacerta mosorensis* (Kolombatović, 1886), is a Dinaric endemic distributed across Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro. On May 1st 2026, two individuals were observed and photographed while basking on exposed limestone outcrops on the Čemerska Mountain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, at 920 m a.s.l. The new locality lies approximately 26.6 km west-northwest of the previously northernmost known locality on the. Romanija Mountain and represents the northernmost confirmed occurrence of *D. mosorensis* currently known across the species' range. This record extends the documented northern range limit and indicates that the species' distribution in this part of the Dinarides remains incompletely known.

Keywords: *Dinarolacerta mosorensis*, Bosnia and Herzegovina, northernmost occurrence, range extension, Dinarides

The Mosor rock lizard, *Dinarolacerta mosorensis* (Kolombatović, 1886), is a Dinaric endemic restricted to Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro (Džukić, 1989; Ljubisavljević *et al.*, 2016; Burić *et al.*, 2025). Burić *et al.* (2025) identified 33 range localities across the species' distribution, including 16 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, a previously published record from the Bosnia and Herzegovina part of the Orjen Mountain, in the Trebinje area (Šukalo, 2022), was not included in their dataset. The precise coordinates of this record were provided by G. Šukalo (pers. comm., 2026). Taking the Orjen Mountain record into account, *D. mosorensis* was known from 17 range localities in Bosnia and Herzegovina prior to the present study. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Prenj Mountain marked the northernmost confirmed occurrence of the species (Šunje *et al.*, 2014) until Burić *et al.* (2025) identified the Romanija Mountain, approximately 65 km farther north, as the northernmost known site. The present contribution documents the Čemerska Mountain as a new range locality, north of all previously known occurrences of the species.

On 1 May 2026, exposed limestone formations along an unpaved road leading toward the medieval town of Dubrovnik in the municipality of Ilijaš were visually surveyed during fieldwork on the Čemerska Mountain, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Figure 1). Two adult individuals were observed basking under clear, cloudless conditions at 43.99363°N, 18.34025°E, at 920 m a.s.l., the first at 10:40 h and the second at 12:00 h. The air temperature

was not measured directly but was estimated at 10–12 °C during the observations. Both individuals were photographed *in situ* (Figure 2).

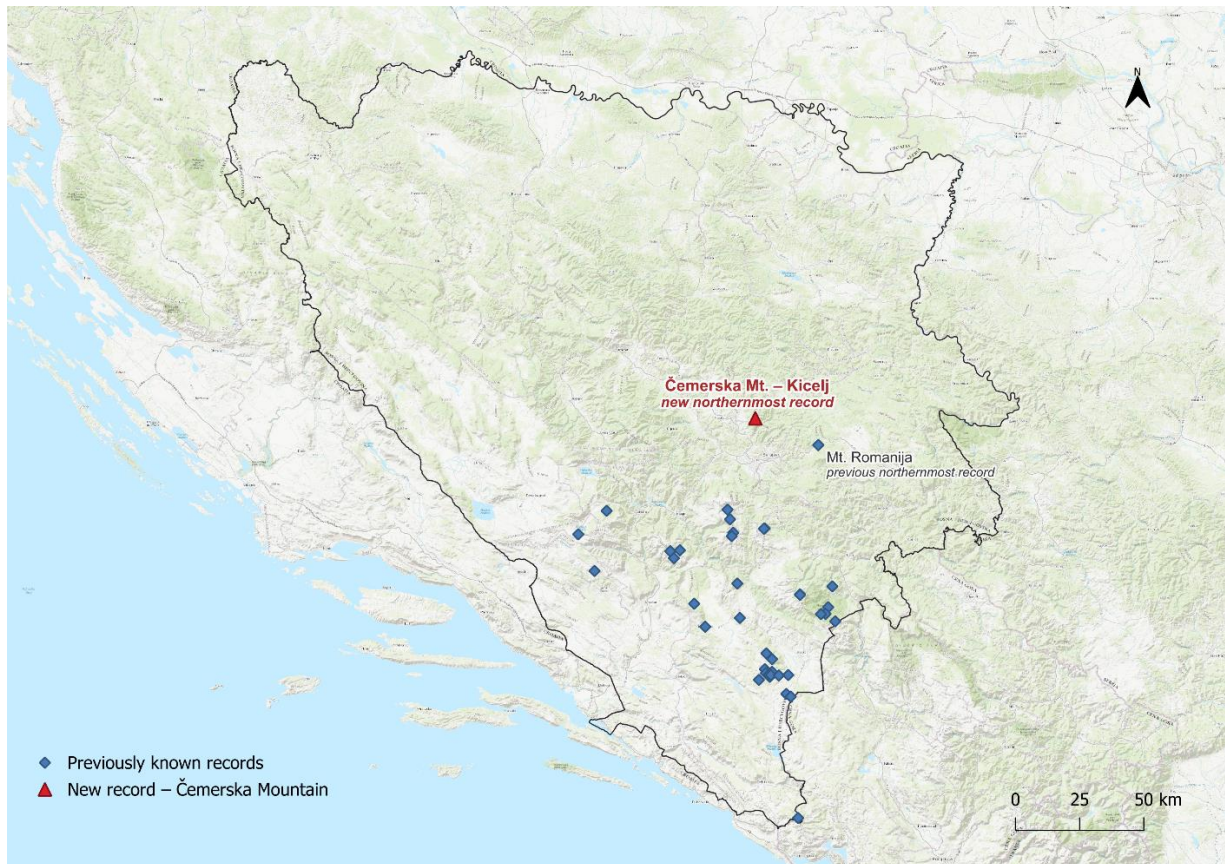


Figure 1. Previously known records of *Dinarolacerta mosorensis* in Bosnia and Herzegovina based on Burić *et al.* (2025) and Šukalo (2022), together with the new record from the Čemerska Mountain. The previously northernmost known locality on the Romanija Mountain and the new locality on the Čemerska Mountain are indicated

The site lies below the Kicelj summit, near the Misoča Canyon, and consists of a partly open, south-facing limestone outcrop bordered by deciduous forest (Figure 2). The combination of exposed rock surfaces and adjoining vegetation is consistent with habitat-use patterns previously described for *D. mosorensis*, which is closely associated with rocky habitats within or adjacent to vegetation (Ljubisavljević *et al.*, 2017; Burić *et al.*, 2025).

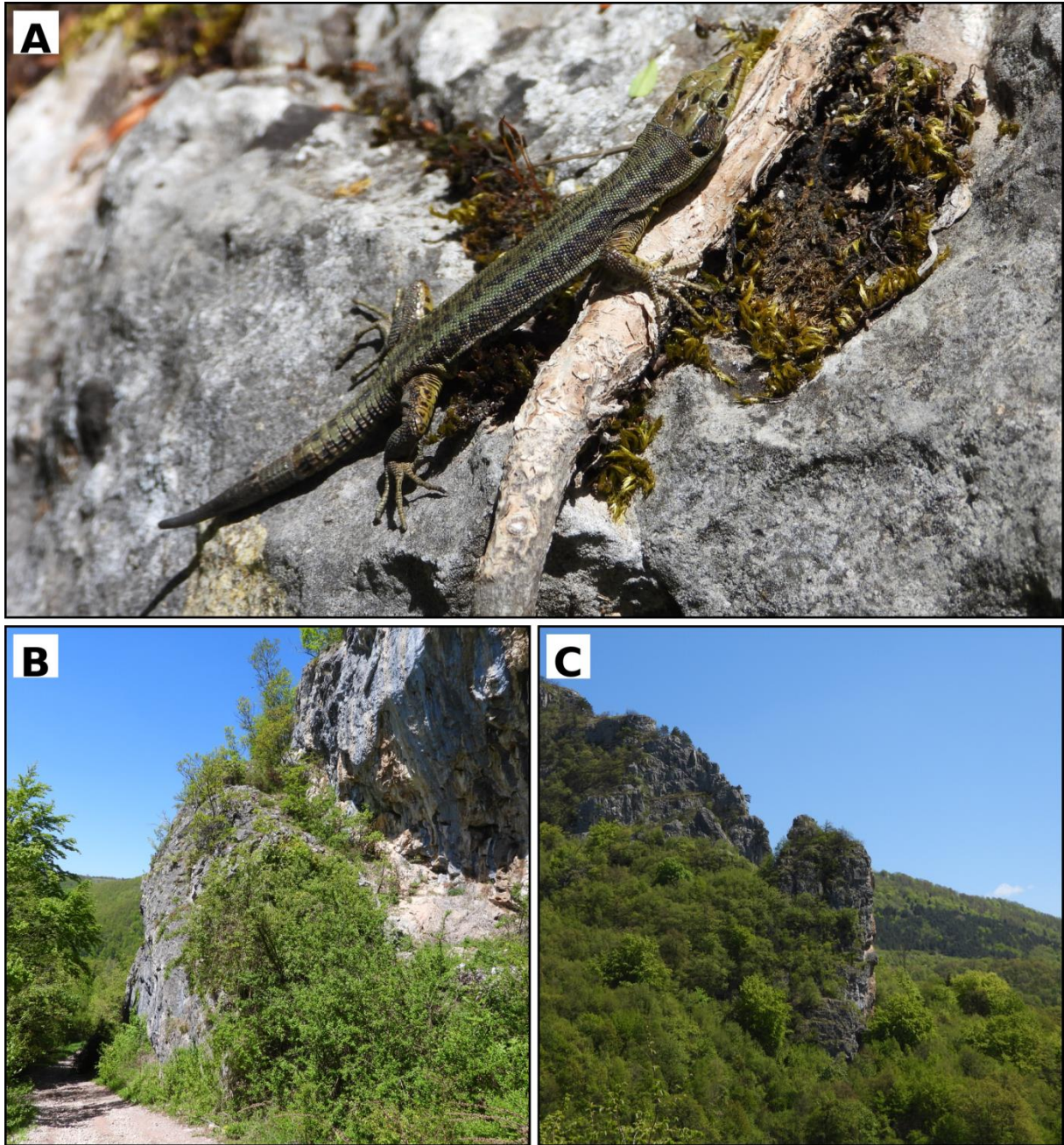


Figure 2. *Dinarolacerta mosorensis* and its habitat on Čemerska Mountain, Bosnia and Herzegovina. (A) Basking individual in situ on May 1st 2026; (B) South-facing limestone outcrop adjacent to the unpaved road; (C) Landscape view of the broader rocky habitat below Kicelj summit.

The new locality on the Čemerska Mountain is situated ca. 26.6 km WNW of the previously northernmost locality on the Romanija Mountain (Burić *et al.*, 2025), extending the documented northern range limit of *D. mosorensis*. The successive discovery of increasingly northern localities, from the Prenj Mountain (Šunje *et al.*, 2014) to the Romanija Mountain and now the Čemerska Mountain, suggests that the northern distribution limit of the species remains incompletely documented. The Čemerska record is also notable for its elevation of 920 m a.s.l., as 91% of previously known records were from elevations above 1,000 m a.s.l. (Burić

et al., 2025). Its occurrence on a south-facing limestone outcrop adjoining deciduous forest is consistent with previously described habitat use of the species (Ljubisavljević *et al.*, 2017; Burić *et al.*, 2025). Targeted surveys of suitable rocky habitats on surrounding massifs and within canyon systems farther north may reveal additional localities and help refine the northern distribution limit of *D. mosorensis*.

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NOVI NAJSJEVERNIJI NALAZ MOSORSKOG GUŠTERA *DINAROLACERTA MOSORENSIS* (KOLOMBATOVIĆ, 1886) U BOSNI I HERCEGOVINI

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Sažetak

Mosorski gušter, *Dinarolacerta mosorensis* (Kolombatović, 1886), dinarski je endem rasprostranjen u Hrvatskoj, Bosni i Hercegovini i Crnoj Gori. Dana 1. maja 2026. godine, dvije jedinke zabilježene su i fotografisane dok su se sunčale na izloženim krečnjačkim stijenama na Čemerskoj planini, Bosna i Hercegovina, na 920 m n.v. Novi lokalitet nalazi se približno 26,6 km zapadno-sjeverozapadno od prethodno najsjevernijeg poznatog lokaliteta na planini Romaniji i predstavlja trenutno najsjeverniji potvrđeni nalaz *D. mosorensis* u cjelokupnom

arealu vrste. Ovaj nalaz pomjera dokumentovanu sjevernu granicu areala i ukazuje da rasprostranjenost vrste u ovom dijelu Dinarida još uvijek nije dovoljno istražena.

Ključne riječi: *Dinarolacerta mosorensis*, Bosna i Hercegovina, najsjeverniji nalaz, proširenje poznatog areala, Dinaridi

Received August 18, 2026

Accepted August 31, 2026