

The moor frog (*Rana arvalis*) in Lithuania: distribution and status

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Der Moorfrosch (*Rana arvalis*) in Litauen: Verbreitung und Status

Nach den aktuellen Daten ist der Moorfrosch (*Rana arvalis*) in Litauen weit verbreitet und häufig. Die Art besiedelt ein breites Spektrum von Lebensräumen, wobei sie gewöhnlich in offenen, feuchten Gegenden zu finden ist, wie in Hochmooren und Wiesenbereichen, an Biberteichen und in Flusstälern. Trotz Datenlücken kann eine mehr oder weniger flächendeckende Verbreitung von *R. arvalis* angenommen werden. Nur im nördlichen Teil Litauens erscheint die Verbreitung unregelmäßig. Weitere Untersuchungen sind nötig, um die Verbreitungsdaten zu vervollständigen und die Verbreitungsmuster in unterschiedlichen Maßstäben zu klären.

Schlüsselbegriffe: Amphibia, Anura, Ranidae, *Rana arvalis*, Litauen.

Abstract

According to recent data, the moor frog (*Rana arvalis*) is widespread and common in Lithuania. The species inhabits a wide range of habitats, and is usually found in open, wet places such as upland bogs, grassland, beaver sites, and river valleys. Despite gaps in our present knowledge, the distribution pattern of *R. arvalis* can be considered as more or less continuous, except in the northern part of Lithuania where it appears to be more patchy. Further investigations are required for complete distribution data, and to specify the distribution patterns at different scales.

Key words: Amphibia, Anura, Ranidae, *Rana arvalis*, Lithuania.

Introduction

The moor frog (*Rana arvalis*) is one of two brown frog species found in the present territory of Lithuania. The occurrence of this amphibian in Lithuania was first documented in the second half of the 19th century (AFANASIEV 1861). Further data on the distribution appeared about sixty years later, when FEDOROWICZ (1918) reported the occurrence of *R. arvalis* in the vicinity of Vilnius, and SZELIGA-MIERZEYEWski (1924) described the species as the rarest representative of true frogs (*Rana*) in Lithuania, albeit more common than the crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*). IVANAUSKAS & VAILIONIS (1922) described *R. arvalis* as not widespread in Lithuania. Later, when more information on the distribution and habitats was available, the species was regarded as widespread and common (GAIŽAUSKIENĖ 1981, GRUODIS 1987).

The »Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Europe« (GASC et al. 1997) is the latest and most comprehensive publication on the distribution of amphibian species in Europe.