

Die Reptilienfauna des Nationalparks Bayerischer Wald

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The reptiles of the Bavarian Forest National Park

Six reptile species occur currently in the Bavarian Forest National Park and in adjacent areas: adder (*Vipera berus*), grass snake (*Natrix natrix*), smooth snake (*Coronella austriaca*), common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*) and slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*). The common lizard is the most abundant species throughout the park. It inhabits a broad range of open and shrubby habitats such as »Schachten meadows« (meadows in an altitude of more than 1000 m, which were formerly used as pasture), fens, forest edges and forest clearings. The naturally open spots in the forest, which result from storm damage or from heavy infestations by bark beetles, also provide suitable habitats. The actual records of the adder in 2003 focussed on »Schachten meadows« and on fens in low altitudes. Additionally, there is an individual-rich population in the riverine spruce forest at the edge of the national park and in the adjacent area. However, the occurrence of some formerly known adder populations could not be confirmed. For the adder, intact primary habitats such as fens play an important role as habits, besides the anthropogenous »Schachten meadows«. Like the common lizard, this species might benefit from the forest decline in the high altitudes, which is caused by the heavy bark beetle infestation. The grass snake was restricted to creek valleys and wet meadows at lower altitudes. The few records of the slow worm do not show a focus on any habitat type. Smooth snake and sand lizard occurred sporadically in warmer areas adjacent to the national park. The Bavarian Forest National Park plays an important role for reptile species conservation in Germany. First, there are still individual-rich populations of all species in primary habitats (fens, riverine spruces forest, open forest areas), especially of the seriously threatened adder. Second, the national parks serves as an excellent model for the protection of dynamic processes in the forest, which also permanently initiate the development of new reptile habitats

Key words: Reptiles, Bavarian Forest National Park, distribution, habitat choice, conservation.

Zusammenfassung

Im Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald und in seinem Umfeld kommen derzeit Kreuzotter (*Vipera berus*), Ringelnatter (*Natrix natrix*), Schlingnatter (*Coronella austriaca*), Waldeidechse (*Zootoca vivipara*), Zauneidechse (*Lacerta agilis*) und Blindschleiche (*Anguis fragilis*) vor. Die häufigste Art im Gebiet ist die Waldeidechse, die im gesamten Nationalparkgebiet weit verbreitet ist. Sie bewohnt dort ein breites Spektrum an offenen und halboffenen Lebensräumen. Die meisten Beobachtungen gelangen auf den Schachten, auf Tief- und Hochlagenfilzen sowie an Waldrändern und auf anthropogenen Lichtungen. Die lückigen Waldbestände, die durch Sturmwurf oder