

New occurrences of the Caspian Whipsnake, *Dolichophis caspius* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae) along the River Danube in Hungary

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Abstract: The Caspian Whipsnake is a strictly protected snake species in Hungary, reaching the northern- and westernmost distribution limit of its areal. Hungarian populations were previously only known from two regions, one around Budapest, on the south-western limestone hills, and another in the southernmost part of the country, on a warm hill named Szársomlyó. In the past 5 years, following the recommendations of the species protection action plan and some laic reports in need of confirmation, a detailed survey began on the series of loess walls along the western shore of the River Danube. Several new Whipsnake habitats have been discovered, which are presented and described here for the first time: at the settlements of Dunaújváros and Dunaföldvár. The zoogeographical and nature conservation importance of the newly outlined distribution of the Caspian Whipsnake in Hungary is discussed.

Keywords: *Dolichophis caspius*, new records, Dunaújváros, Dunaföldvár, distribution, zoogeography