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8. Amphibian diversity and distribution in west Siberia (Russia)

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Abstract: West Siberia is a vast area in North Eurasia lying between the Ural Mountains and the Yenisei River. Its area is more than 2.4 million sq. km. West Siberia extends almost 3,000 km from north to south and has five ecological zones (biomes) following each other in the latitudinal direction: tundra, forest-tundra, forest-steppe, steppe, and the foothills and mountains of Salair, Altai, Kuznetsk Alatau, and Gornaya Shoria. The amphibian fauna of West Siberia is poor due to harsh climatic conditions and includes only 11 species. There is still no complete understanding of distribution patterns of different amphibian species in the region. The aim of this study is to partially fill this gap by summarizing all possible sources of occurrence records for amphibians in West Siberia.

Original field surveys data, available scientific literature, museum collections, personal reports and iNaturalist observations were used to arrange the dataset. Among 11 species recorded in West Siberia, the widely distributed species are the Siberian newt *Salamandrella keyserlingii* Dybowski, 1870, the common toad *Bufo bufo* (Linnaeus, 1758), the moor frog *Rana arvalis* Nilsson, 1842, and the Siberian wood frog *R. amurensis* Boulenger, 1886. The region also harbors the eastern and north-eastern periphery of the ranges of the common newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* (Linnaeus, 1758), the Pallas' spadefoot toad *Pelobates vespertinus* (Pallas, 1771), the variable toad *Bufoes sitibundus* (Pallas, 1771), Pewzow's toad *B. pewzowi* (Bedriaga, 1898), the common frog *R. temporaria* Linnaeus, 1758, and the marsh frog *Pelophylax ridibundus* (Pallas, 1771). The green toad *B. viridis* (Laurenti, 1768) exists in West Siberia only outside its native range, as an inadvertently introduced species.

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He is a PhD in cell biology and a research fellow in the University of Tyumen (Tyumen, Russia) and the Institute of Cytology and Genetics (Novosibirsk, Russia). Dr. Lisachov is an author of more than 28 scientific publications (Google Scholar), including research papers and conference talks. His main area of research is chromosomal evolution in reptiles, especially the evolution of sex chromosomes. Since recently, he also studies viral diseases in fish, reptiles and amphibians.

Dr. Lisachov graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Novosibirsk State University in 2013, and since 2011, he has been working in Pavel Borodin's lab in the Institute of Cytology and Genetics. There, he studied chromosome pairing and recombination in meiosis in different taxa, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. His PhD thesis, defended in 2017, was devoted to the study of meiotic behavior of sex chromosomes in different vertebrate clades (fish, lizards and birds). Since 2020, the main working place of Dr. Lisachov is the Ecological and Evolutionary Genetics Research Group in the University of Tyumen.

Herpetology has always been the main scientific interest of Dr. Lisachov. He performed field studies in Russia with Dr. Evgeniy Simonov, studying the biogeography of Russian amphibians and reptiles. He also participated in expeditions to Kazakhstan and Thailand, held by the Herpetology Lab of the Moscow State University. Dr. Lisachov has 18 years of experience in keeping and breeding amphibians and reptiles in captivity.