

A Concise Checklist and Bibliography of the
Reptiles of
Latvia



Rune Midtgaard

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Inset image (cover):

Western European Slowworm (*Anguis fragilis*)

Vissenbjerg, Denmark








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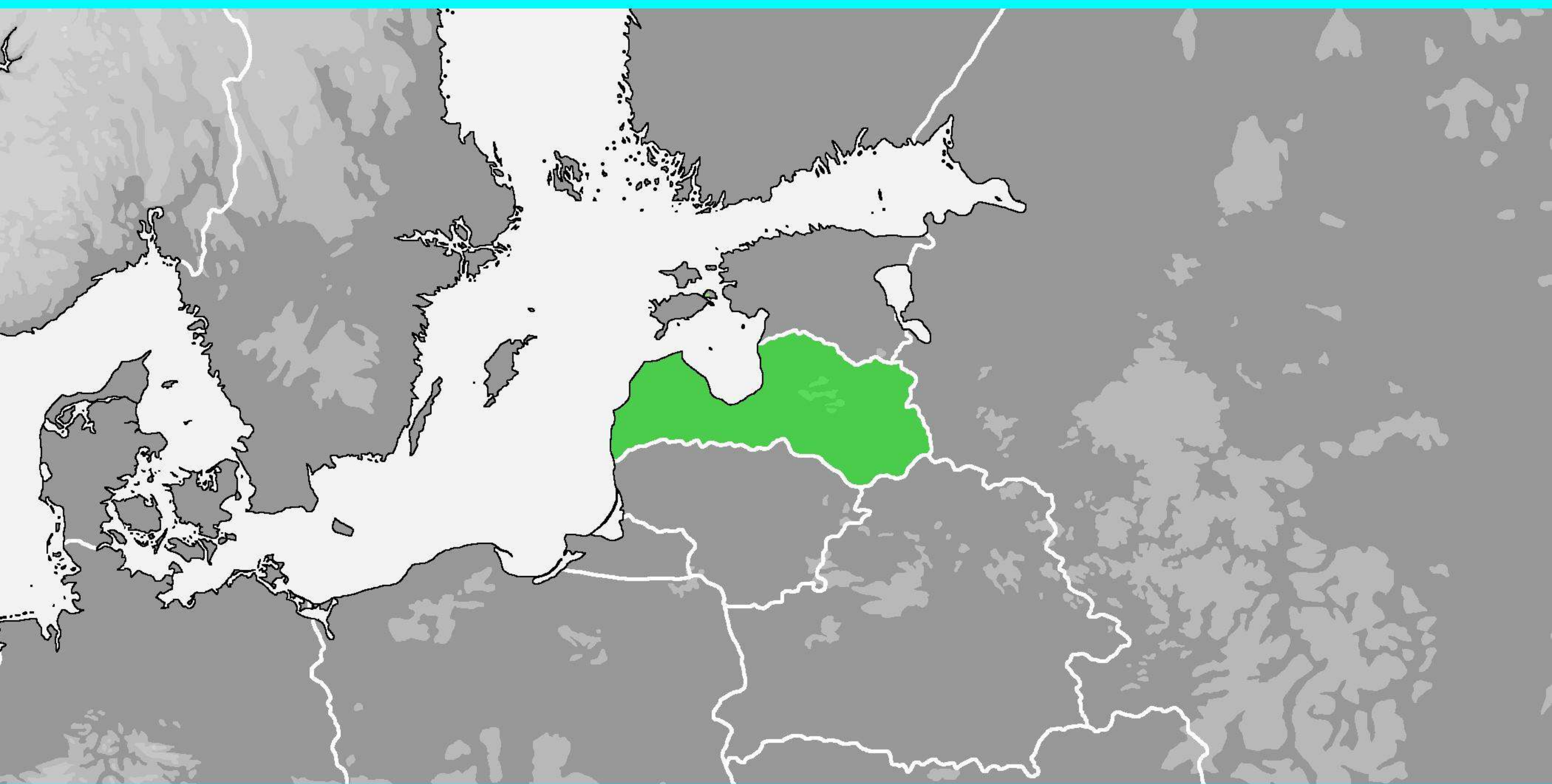
Background image (cover and colophon):

Northern Eurasian Viper (*Vipera berus*)

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IUCN Red List categories



Extinct



Endangered



Least Concern



Extinct in the Wild



Vulnerable



Data Deficient



Critically Endangered



Near Threatened



Not Assessed

Lizards (Sauria)

Family **Anguidae**

Slowworms, etc.

2 species

NA ***Anguis colchica*** (Nordmann, 1840)

Eastern Slowworm

Distribution: E. Europe, Middle East.

LC ***Anguis fragilis*** Linnaeus, 1758

Western European Slowworm

Distribution: Europe.

Family **Lacertidae**

Typical Lizards

2 species

LC ***Lacerta agilis*** Linnaeus, 1758

Northern Eurasian Sand Lizard

Distribution: Scandinavia, England, C. and E. Europe, C. Asia, south to Turkey.

LC ***Zootoca vivipara*** (Lichtenstein, 1823)

Northern Eurasian Forest Lizard

Distribution: N. and C. Europe, N. and C. Asia.

Snakes (Serpentes)

Family **Colubridae**

2 species

Typical Snakes

LC *Coronella austriaca* Laurenti, 1768

Northern Smooth Snake

Distribution: Europe, N. Middle East.

LC *Natrix natrix* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common European Grass Snake

Distribution: N., C. and E. Europe, Middle East, C. Asia.

Family **Viperidae**

1 species

Vipers

LC *Vipera berus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Northern Eurasian Viper

Distribution: N., C. and E. Europe, Turkey, C. and E. Asia.

Turtles (Testudines)

Family **Emydidae**

Western Pond Turtles

1 species

NT *Emys orbicularis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common European Pond Turtle

Distribution: C. and S. Europe, C. and SW. Asia, NW. Africa.

Introduced species

Family **Emydidae**

Western Pond Turtles

LC *Trachemys scripta* (Thunberg in Schoepff, 1792)

Common Slider

Distribution: Mexico, USA.

Family **Geoemydidae**

Eastern Pond Turtles

NA *Mauremys caspica* (Gmelin, 1774)

Caspian Turtle

Distribution: SE. Europe, Middle East.

NA *Mauremys rivulata* (Valenciennes, 1833)

Balkan Pond Turtle

Distribution: SE. Europe, Middle East.

Family **Testudinidae**

Tortoises

VU *Testudo horsfieldii* Gray, 1844

Steppe Tortoise

Distribution: C. and SW. Asia.

Family **Trionychidae**

Softshell Turtles

VU *Pelodiscus sinensis* (Wiegmann, 1835)

Chinese Softshell Turtle

Distribution: China, Taiwan, Vietnam.

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Links

At the time of writing, a more detailed description of the distribution of each species along with references can be seen at the RepFocus webpage:

www.repfocus.dk/GEO/Latvia.html

The website is updated continuously and includes distribution maps of most (eventually all) of the world's reptile species. To the best of the author's knowledge and ability, the information presented in this publication reflects the state of knowledge current to January 1st, 2026. Comments are welcomed and can be sent to the author:

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Other recommended websites include:

The Reptile Database:

www.reptile-database.org

The IUCN Redlist of Threatened Species:

www.iucnredlist.org

NHBS - Wildlife, Ecology & Conservation (internet book store):

www.nhbs.com/en/

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