

A Concise Checklist and Bibliography of the
Reptiles of
Norway



Rune Midtgaard

2026

RepFocus Publishing

RepFocus Publishing's regional checklists, such as this e-book, are based on data compiled from the literature and presented in the RepFocus website (www.repfocus.dk). The purpose of publishing these checklists, not only as website pages, but also as e-books in pdf format, is to present concise checklists accessible to everyone with an internet access. Once downloaded, the checklists can be used on computers, padlets and mobile phones, also where internet is not available.

The checklists contain only few photos, and there are no identification keys included. However, it is the author's hope that the checklists may ease the first steps in the process of identifying species.

The checklists are free of charge, partly to reach users who cannot afford buying field guides or handbooks, and may be copied and shared with only the following limitations:

Full credit must be given when the publication is cited.

Photos may not be used for other purposes without permission from the photographer(s).

© 2026 RepFocus Publishing
Birke Alle 19.1.18
5500 Middelfart
Denmark
runemidtgaard@hotmail.com

Citation: Midtgaard, Rune. 2026. *A Concise Checklist and Bibliography of the Reptiles of Norway*. RepFocus Publishing, Middelfart, Denmark. 10 pp. (e-book in pdf format).

Inset image (cover):

Common European Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*)

Denmark






© Rune Midtgaard

Background image (cover and colophon):

Western European Slowworm (*Anguis fragilis*)

© Rune Midtgaard

Contents

		Page
 Lizards (Sauria)	2 species	4
 Snakes (Serpentes)	3 species	5
 Turtles (Testudines)	2 species	6
Reptiles in total	7 species	
 Acknowledgments		7
 Links		8
 Bibliography		9-10



IUCN Red List categories

EX

Extinct

EW

Extinct in the Wild

CR

Critically Endangered

EN

Endangered

VU

Vulnerable

NT

Near Threatened

LC

Least Concern

DD

Data Deficient

NA

Not Assessed

Lizards (Sauria)

Family **Anguidae**

Slowworms, etc.

1 species

LC *Anguis fragilis* Linnaeus, 1758

Western European Slowworm

Distribution: Europe.

Family **Lacertidae**

Typical Lizards

1 species

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 **Cheloniidae**

Hard-shelled Sea Turtles

1 species

v ***Caretta caretta*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

Loggerhead Sea Turtle

Distribution: Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans, Mediterranean Sea.

Family **Dermochelyidae**

Leatherback Sea Turtle

1 species

v ***Dermochelys coriacea*** (Vandelli, 1761)

Leatherback Sea Turtle

Distribution: Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans.

Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank the following people:

C. A. Gram (1920–1992) and **Klaus Dræby**, founder and former director, respectively, of the reptile zoo *Terrariet* (Vissenbjerg, Denmark) for granting me full access as a photographer to the animals in their care. Many of the photos taken during this collaboration are included in this or other RepFocus publications.

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/Norway.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:

runemidtgaard@hotmail.com

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/

Bibliography

- Arnold, E.N.; Ovenden, D.W. 2002. A field guide to the reptiles and amphibians of Britain and Europe. Collins, London. 288 pp.
- Brongersma, L.D. 1982. Marine turtles of the eastern Atlantic Ocean. pp. 407-416. In: Bjorndal, K.A. (ed.). Biology and conservation of sea turtles. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 583 pp.
- Clark, R.J. 1994. Observations on the herpetofauna of southern Norway (Sørland). British Herpetological Society Bulletin 47: 30-44.
- Dalessi, D.; Bolle, H.; Jongejans, E.; Sørensen, P.; Siepel, H. 2021. Reproduction probabilities and size distributions of the smooth snake *Coronella austriaca* in the Netherlands and Norway. *Amphibia-Reptilia* 42(2): 167-178.
- David, P.; Ineich, I. 1999. Les serpents venimeux du monde: systématique et répartition. *Dumerilia* 3: 1-499.
- David, P.; Vogel, G. 2010. Venomous snakes of Europe, Northern, Central, and Western Asia. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 162 pp.
- Dely, O.G. 1981. *Anguis fragilis* Linnaeus 1758 - Blindschleiche. pp. 241-258. In: Böhme, W. (ed.). Handbuch der Reptilien und Amphibien Europas. Band 1. Echsen (Sauria) 1. (Gekkonidae, Agamidae, Chamaeleonidae, Anguidae, Amphisbaenidae, Scincidae, Lacertidae 1). Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft, Wiesbaden. 520 pp.
- Dely, O.G.; Böhme, W. 1984. *Lacerta vivipara* - Waldeidechse. pp. 362-393. In: Böhme, W. (ed.). Handbuch der Reptilien und Amphibien Europas. Band 2/1. Echsen (Sauria) 2. (Lacertidae 2: Lacerta). AULA-Verlag, Wiesbaden. 416 pp.
- Dolmen, D. 1986. Norwegian amphibians and reptiles; current situation 1985. pp. 743-746. In: Rocek, Z. (ed.). Studies in herpetology. Proceedings of the European Herpetological Meeting (3rd Ordinary General Meeting of the Societas Europaea Herpetologica) Prague 1985. Charles University, Prague. 754 pp.
- Fog, K.; Schmedes, A.; Lassen, D.R. de 1997. Nordens padder og krybdyr. Gad, Copenhagen. 365 pp.
- Frazier, J.; Gramentz, D.; Fritz, U. 2005. *Dermochelys coriacea* - Lederschildkröte. pp. 249-328. In: Fritz, U. (ed.). Handbuch der Reptilien und Amphibien Europas. Band 3/IIIB. Schildkröten (Testudines) II (Cheloniidae, Dermochelyidae, Fossile Schildkröten Europas). AULA-Verlag, Wiesbaden. 448 pp.
- Geniez, P. 2018. Snakes of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East: A Photographic Guide. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. 384 pp. (Translation of 2015 French original).
- Glandt, D.; Trapp, B. 2022. Die Amphibien & Reptilien Europas - Beobachten und bestimmen. Quelle & Meyer, Wiesbaden. 416 pp.
- Gramentz, D. 2005. *Caretta caretta* - Falsche oder Unechte Karettschildkröte. pp. 25-115. In: Fritz, U. (ed.). Handbuch der Reptilien und Amphibien Europas. Band 3/IIIB. Schildkröten (Testudines) II (Cheloniidae, Dermochelyidae, Fossile Schildkröten Europas). AULA-Verlag, Wiesbaden. 448 pp.
- Gruber, U. 1989. Die Schlangen Europas und rund ums Mittelmeer. Franckh'sche Verlagshandlung, Stuttgart: 1-248.
- Gvozdik, V.; Jandzik, D.; Lymberakis, P.; Jablonski, D.; Moravec, J. 2010. Slow worm, *Anguis fragilis* (Reptilia: Anguidae) as a species complex: genetic structure reveals deep divergences. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 55(2): 460-472.
- Honegger, R.E. 1981. Threatened amphibians and reptiles in Europe. Supplementary volume of 'Handbuch der Reptilien und Amphibien Europas'. Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft, Wiesbaden. 158 pp.
- Jablonski, D.; Nagy, Z.T.; Avci, A.; Olgun, K.; Kukushkin, O.V.; Safaei-Mahroo, B.; Jandzik, D. 2019. Cryptic diversity in the smooth snake (*Coronella austriaca*). *Amphibia-Reptilia* 40(2): 179-192.
- Jablonski, D.; Najbar, B.; Grochowalska, R.; Gvozdík, V.; Strzala, T. 2017. Phylogeography and postglacial colonization of Central Europe by *Anguis fragilis* and *Anguis colchica*. *Amphibia-Reptilia* 38(4): 562-569.
- Kabisch, K. 1999. *Natrix natrix* - Ringelnatter. pp. 513-580. In: Böhme, W. (ed.). Handbuch der Reptilien und Amphibien Europas. Band 3/II: Schlangen (Serpentes) II (Colubridae 2: Boiginae, Natricinae). AULA-Verlag, Wiesbaden. pp. 481-815.
- Kindler, C.; Böhme, W.; Corti, C.; Gvozdik, V.; Jablonski, D.; Jandzik, D.; Metallinou, M.; Siroky,

Bibliography

- P.; Fritz, U. 2013. Mitochondrial phylogeography, contact zones and taxonomy of grass snakes (*Natrix natrix*, *N. megaloccephala*). *Zoologica Scripta* 42(5): 458-472.
- King, F.W.; Burke, R.L. (eds.) 1989. Crocodylian, tuatara, and turtle species of the world. A taxonomic and geographic reference. Association of Systematics Collections, Washington, D.C. 216 pp.
- Kwet, A. 2022. Reptilien und Amphibien Europas. 5th rev. ed. Kosmos, Stuttgart. 368 pp.
- Lovich, J.E.; Whitfield Gibbons, J. 2021. Turtles of the World. A Guide to Every Family. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.
- Nilson, G.; Andrén, C.; Völkl, W. 2005. *Vipera berus* - Kreuzotter. pp. 213-292. In: Joger, U. & Stümpel, N. (eds.). *Handbuch der Reptilien und Amphibien Europas. Schlangen III. Viperidae*. AULA-Verlag, Wiebelsheim. 420 pp.
- O'Shea, M. 2021. Lizards of the World. A Guide to Every Family. The Ivy Press. 240 pp.
- O'Shea, M. 2023. Snakes of the World. A Guide to Every Family. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.
- Rhodin, A.G.J.; Iverson, J.B.; Fritz, U.; Gallego-García, N.; Georges, A.; Shaffer, H.B.; Dijk, P.P. van 2025. Turtles of the World. Annotated Checklist and Atlas of Taxonomy, Synonymy, Distribution, and Conservation Status. 10th ed. *Chelonian Research Monographs* 10: 1-575.
- Rodda, G.H. 2020. Lizards of the World. Natural History and Taxon Accounts. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. 832 pp.
- Sindaco, R.; Jeremchenko, V.K. 2008. The reptiles of the Western Palearctic. Vol. 1. Annotated checklist and distributional atlas of the turtles, crocodiles, amphisbaenians and lizards of Europe, North Africa, Middle East and Central Asia. Edizioni Belvedere, Latina. 579 pp.
- Sindaco, R.; Venchi, A.; Grieco, C. 2013. The reptiles of the Western Palearctic. Vol. 2. Annotated checklist and distributional atlas of the snakes of Europe, North Africa, Middle East and Central Asia, with an update to volume 1. Edizioni Belvedere, Latina. 543 pp.
- Speybroeck, J.; Beukema, W.; Bok, B.; Voort, J. van der; Velikov, I. 2016. Field guide to the amphibians & reptiles of Britain and Europe. Bloomsbury Publishing, London. 432 pp.
- Wallach, V.; Williams, K.L.; Boundy, J. 2014. Snakes of the world: a catalogue of living and extinct species. CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida & London. 1237 pp.
- Willgohs, J.F. 1953. Common loggerhead *Caretta caretta* (Linne) stranded in western Norway. With some remarks on its specific diagnoses. *Univ. Bergen [angstrom]rb. naturv. R.* 1952(17): 1-8.
- Willgohs, J.F. 1957. Occurrence of the Leathery Turtle in the northern North Sea and off western Norway. *Nature (London)* 179: 163-164.