



Two-spotted Cricket - *Gryllus bimaculatus* - © Jelle van Aalst

During the week we visited some ruins scattered across the island by bicycle (some nice climbs...!) with some nice hilltop views as well. Most impressive (and notable for the (specimens of) species encountered in its proximity) were Palio Pili Castle near the old town of Pili and Antimachia Castle near the airport. Next to common sightings of European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) and Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), I found that *Ophisops elegans* is very abundant in these areas. Also found here (but in fewer numbers) was *Laudakia stellio*. Several adults and sub adults were encountered on walls and natural rock formations. Some were seen along the road as well while cycling to our destination. A large number of tadpoles of *Pelophylax bedriagae* were found in a water tank for livestock near Palio Pili Castle. The surroundings seemed very dry here and the location is way up in the hills. (A)Typical habitat??? *Bufo viridis* crossed my mind at first. During one evening, while cycling back to our hotel after visiting Palio Pili Castle and surroundings, I found a slough of a Anatolian worm lizard (*Blanus strauchi*) under a big rock at the edge of an olive grove. Unfortunately, *Eryx jaculus* and *Typhlops vermicularis* alike, no specimens of *Blanus strauchi* were found during my stay on Kos.

An (organized) excursion to the neighboring volcanic island of Nisyros (visiting the active volcano) revealed the presence of *Laudakia stellio* in and around the village of Nikia. There was no time for visiting other parts of this 41 km² island.



Palio Pili Castle near the old town of Pili - © Jelle van Aalst



Those damn rental bikes...! Walking to the top near Palio Pili Castle - © Jelle van Aalst



? - Palio Pili Castle - © Jelle van Aalst



Climbing (part of) Palio Pili Castle - © Jelle van Aalst



Antimachia Castle - © Jelle van Aalst



View from Antimachia Castle - © Jelle van Aalst