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PROGRAMME & ABSTRACTS

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AGE STRUCTURE OF POPULATION OF THE SAND LIZARDS *Lacerta agilis* IN ARMENIA (P)

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The age of *Lacerta agilis* specimens (n=34) from population of Ankavan (central Armenia – 1800 m a.s.l.) was determined by counting annual layers in their femoral bones.

Age distribution in this population characterizes by a relatively large proportion of young animals. Our results show that 2-year-old individuals represent 32% of the total sample. The snout-vent length (SVL) of 2-year-old females n=6 was composed X=71.3 mm, 62-83 mm and males n=5, X=74.9 mm, 68-80 mm. The percent of 3-year-old animals is 41%. The body length after third hibernation is for females n=10 X=87.2 mm, Lim 81-99 mm and for males n=5, X=83.1 mm, Lim 72-89 mm. Four- and five-year-old animals present 18% and 6% of total sample accordingly. Their average SVL for both gender are 91.6 mm and 95.2 mm respectively. The oldest individual in our sample is 6 year old male with body size equal 93.4 mm.

The mean of body size in age groups demonstrates similar results with Smirina, 1974 and Roytberg, Smirina, 1995. According to their results the maximal age of *Lacerta agilis* is 6-7 years. The comparative investigation of the age distribution of our population with populations from other regions (Roytberg,

Smirina, 1995) shows more similar data with sample from Dagestan foothill where the high percent of younger lizards was found.

Key words: lacertid lizards, *Lacerta agilis*, age structure, Armenia