



POSTERS

**HABITAT STRUCTURE AND DIET OF THREE SYMPATRIC POPULATIONS OF THE LIZARDS  
*Phoenicolacerta kulzeri* AND *Parvilacerta fraasii* AND *Trachylepis vittata*, ON LEBANESE  
MOUNTAINS**

Riyad SADEK<sup>1</sup> and Souad HRAOUI-BLOQUET<sup>2</sup>

1. Biology Department, American University of Beirut, P.O.Box 11-0236, Beirut, Lebanon, E-mail:

[rsadek@aub.edu.lb](mailto:rsadek@aub.edu.lb)

2. Souad Hraoui-Bloquet, Faculty of Sciences, Branch II, Lebanese University, P.O. Box 90656, Jdeidet El Metn, Lebanon

The two endangered Lebanese lacertid lizards *Phoenicolacerta kulzeri* and *Parvilacerta fraasii* are sympatric with the skink *Trachylepis vittata* in regions of high altitude, between 1900 and 2100m. Field studies were conducted on their habitat use, microhabitat preferences and diet. The results show habitat differences between the three species in terms of physical structure and types of vegetation associated with these habitats. *P. kulzeri* is mostly scansorial in rocky habitats while *T. vittata* and *P. fraasi* are mostly ground-dwelling. The habitats of *P. kulzeri* is more fragmented than that of the other two species. *Trachylepis vittata*, which is slightly larger than the two lacertids, tends to eat larger prey but the diet of *P. kulzeri* is the least diverse. The lacertids continue to be active as long as the weather permits, sometimes until late November but *T. vittata* virtually disappears as of early October.