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Reproductive effort and reproductive success in the Danube crested newt (*Triturus dobrogicus*)

The reproductive effort and success were studied experimentally using 15 females of *Triturus dobrogicus* from Lake Sinoe (Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Romania). The average period of oviposition was 22.7 ± 5.1 days (range 13-31), and the average number of eggs deposited by a female was 306 ± 119 (range 160-489). The daily number of eggs deposited decreased in time, the higher daily deposition rates occurring during the first week. Only 38.9% of the eggs hatched. The age of the females was between 2-6 years old, the highest reproductive output corresponding to the 3 years old females. At the end of oviposition 8 females were randomly selected and injected with FSH and LH. Hormonally stimulated females continued to deposit for almost a week an average 60.5 ± 44.9 eggs/female (range 3-110), thus increasing the average number of eggs deposited by each female from an average of 299 to 368 eggs. The number of eggs deposited after hormone stimulation was negatively correlated to the initial number of eggs deposited ($R^2 = 0.47$), indicating that reproduction output is limited. There was no significant weight loss during reproduction, suggesting that a prolonged reproduction involves less effort.

U. Schulte, V. Mingo, C. Modica, M. Veith & A. Hochkirch

Reconstructing the invasion history of a thriving introduced Wall lizard population in Germany

Since the 1930's introductions of wall lizards took place in Passau, Bavaria, Germany. 80 years later this population has to be considered as the world's largest introduced wall lizard population. It has extended its range about 30 km along a railway, now trespassing the Austrian border. Using DNA barcoding, we assigned the population to a geographically distinct evolutionary lineage which can be found in southern-most Slovenia, north-western Croatia, and the eastern part of the Po Plain (so-called Venetian Clade). Morphology suggests that, in concordance with mtDNA data, the source population stems from the Bologna-Modena area. To reconstruct the invasion history of the population a total of 165 individuals were genotyped at 13 microsatellite loci. In order to investigate routes of expansion wall lizards were sampled every 5 km along a transect, covering the whole invasive range of this population. First results indicate a rapid expansion of the population.

A. Schulze & M. Jansen

When tadpoles tip the scale: larval morphology as part of an integrative anuran inventory

Cryptic diversity of Bolivian lowland frog species was revealed by the inclusion of selected anuran larvae in the course of an integrative taxonomy approach. The combination of