



family

**017.****Escape and recovery tactics of two syntopic and morphologically similar lacertid lizards**Žagar, Anamarija^{1,2}; Carretero, Miguel A.¹; Vrezec, Al³¹CIBIO, Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos, Universidade do Porto, Vairão, Portugal²Department of Biology, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia³National Institute of Biology, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Lacertids are preyed upon by different predators with different foraging strategies, namely, avian predators attack from above, while terrestrial predators use either approaching on open ground or active searching for prey in their hiding places. When active, lacertids are expected to employ different antipredatory behaviours, either crypsis or early predator detection (visually or chemically) followed by escape to the shelter. Syntopic populations of overall similar lacertid species are likely to share predators. However, their predator avoidance tactics might differ. Using standard techniques, we conducted a field test of the escape-recovery tactics for two morphologically and ecologically similar species: *Iberolacerta horvathi* and *Podarcis muralis*, occurring in syntopy in the Northern Dinaric region. Adults of both species intrinsically differed in their escape tactics when approached by the researcher simulating a ground predator attack. Specifically, *I. horvathi* tended to escape at greater distances and spent more time in the shelter before emerging (longer recovery time) regardless the air, surface or refuge temperatures and habitat type. These divergent antipredator strategies involving different predation risks are expected to affect coexistence of these two lizard species.

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