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Abstracts

EDITED BY

Marta Biaggini, Miguel Angel Carretero, Claudia Corti,
Petros Lymberakis, Pietro Lo Cascio



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Dipartimento dei Beni Culturali e I.S.

Microhabitat use, activity and selected temperatures of sympatric

Iberolacerta horvathi and *Podarcis muralis*

Anamarija Žagar^{1,2*}, Veronica Gomes², Neftalí Sillero³

¹NIB National institute of Biology, Večna pot 111, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

²CIBIO Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources, InBIO, Universidade do Porto, Campus de Vairão, Rua Padre Armando Quintas, N° 7, 4485-661 Vairão, Portugal

³CICGE: Centro de Investigação em Ciências Geo-Espaciais, Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade do Porto, Alameda do Monte da Virgem, 4430-146 Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal

Lizards live in a thermally heterogeneous environment and use thermoregulation through behavior and physiology to maintain body temperatures within a narrow thermal range during their activity. Lizards' microhabitat selection is driven by many factors, being thermoregulatory behavior one of the most important ones. Reversely, the thermal environment will amongst other factors have an effect on effective thermoregulation. In syntopic populations of potentially competing species, habitat selection will also be influenced by avoiding interactions; subtle differences in microhabitat use may be detected. We studied microhabitat selection, activity and selected temperatures in *Iberolacerta horvathi* and *Podarcis muralis* under allotopic and syntopic conditions. We used novel geo-location techniques with a low error, registered environmental temperatures with temperature data-loggers and performed spatial analyses using geostatistics (interpolations). Results showed that more generalist species (*P. muralis*) exhibits a more generalized use of microhabitats and thermal space and is active for a longer period of the day than the more specialist species, *I. horvathi*. Allotopic *I. horvathi* site was characterized with low environmental temperatures (Te) that allowed restricted activity time. This corroborates its high-altitude eco-physiology as an adaptation to thermally restricted environments. Syntopic site that supports both species was characterized by the highest range microhabitat types and Te, which suggests that both, habitat and spatial thermal heterogeneity may be an important factor promoting species coexistence.

