

P18 - Age structure in isolated *Podarcis muralis* populations from Dobrudja region, Romania

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The European common wall lizard (*Podarcis muralis*) is a widespread anthropogenic species throughout Europe, with successfully introduced populations in North America. Despite its widespread range few studies have described the age structure of *Podarcis muralis*. Age related parameters have both species-specific characteristics and are influenced by external conditions like temperature, feeding patterns, predation, diseases and anthropic activities.

In the Romanian Dobrudja region the range is restricted to several isolated populations. We describe age and size related parameters from three isolated populations. Each captured animal was weighted, measured and a toe from the hind leg cut and stored in 70% alcohol. Age was assessed through skeletochronology, using the slightly modified protocols of Castanet and Smirina.

Preliminary results indicate that the most common age cohort is 3-4 years old, with a mean age of 3.80 and maximum estimated age of 7 years, with a snout-vent-length (SVL) range between 4.8-6.7 cm. Males are generally larger and older than females: female SVL range is between 4.8 - 6.5 cm, with a mean of 5.61, and age range between 2 - 5 years with a mean of 3.77, while the SVL of males ranges between 5.0 - 6.7 cm with a mean of 5.95 cm and estimated age between 2 -7 years old with a mean of 3.88. We found no significant differences for age and size related parameters between the three populations studied. In previous studies, the age for *P. muralis* has been found to be in the range of 2 to 5 years and the SVL between 5 to 7.5 cm.