



**INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON THE ZOOGEOGRAPHY AND
ECOLOGY OF GREECE AND ADJACENT REGIONS**

ABSTRACTS



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Molecular Phylogeny of the two *Algyroides* species (Sauria; Lacertidae) in the Balkan Peninsula

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The lizards of the genus *Algyroides* belong to the family of Lacertidae and currently comprise four morphological species. Two of them (*Algyroides nigropunctatus* and *A. moreoticus*) are distributed in Greece, whereas the second one is a Greek endemic. *Algyroides nigropunctatus* interestingly presents two different location-specific color phenotypes. Hitherto, there hasn't been any assiduous molecular study on the phylogenetic relationships between the different insular and continental populations of the two species, which is the aim of the present work. Fresh tissue samples, as well as voucher samples from the Natural History Museums of Crete and Bonn, were obtained in order to represent the two species' range sufficiently. Both mitochondrial and nuclear genes were sequenced in order to reveal the intra- and inter-specific genetic differentiation. Mitochondrial data reveal the presence of several clades of *A. nigropunctatus* with distinct geographic distribution in southwestern Greece. Combining molecular data and field observations it seems that there is reproductive isolation between the two color morphotypes, which are genetically distinct, despite the absence of any geographic barrier in western mainland Greece. No significant divergence was revealed within *A. moreoticus*. Current data indicate a possible need for a thorough morphological survey that may contribute to a re-evaluation of *A. nigropunctatus* taxonomy.

Keywords: *nigropunctatus*, *moreoticus*, Maximum Likelihood, mitochondrial DNA, nuclear DNA, Taxonomy