



# **Program & Book of Abstracts**

**Belgrade  
2022**



Institute for Biological Research “Siniša Stanković”  
National Institute of Republic of Serbia  
University of Belgrade, Serbia

# **PROGRAM & BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

21<sup>st</sup> European Congress of Herpetology



September 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Belgrade

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**PUBLISHER**

Institute for Biological Research “Siniša Stanković” – National Institute of Republic of Serbia, University of Belgrade, Serbia

**FOR PUBLISHER**

Mirjana Mihailović, director of the Institute for Biological Research “Siniša Stanković” – National Institute of Republic of Serbia, University of Belgrade

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**BOOK COVER**

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**EDITION**

Available electronically only

**PLACE AND YEAR OF PUBLICATION**

Belgrade, 2022

**ISBN**

978-86-80335-19-3

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5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022



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## Introduced and invasive species

### *Oral presentation*

#### **Where are you coming from? New data on introduced reptiles in Ukraine**

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The increasing globalization allows organisms of the Earth unprecedented moving and areal changes. This is due to the food market, pet trade, or unintended transport. Ukraine is one of the least studied countries in Europe in terms of the distribution of reptiles, including alien or introduced species. In total, Ukraine has 21 native and at least five allochthonous species of reptiles. The most known introduced species is *Trachemys scripta*. Two species of lizards (*Darevskia armeniaca* and *D. dahli*) were deliberately introduced approximately half a century ago to the Zhytomyr Oblast. Recently, *Podarcis muralis* was found in the southern part of Ukraine, where was introduced probably from the Danube area. One species of gecko, *Tenuidactylus bogdanovi* found in Odesa city has been most likely introduced from Central Asia. In our study, we present data on three species of introduced reptiles for continental Ukraine with genetic affiliation to the population of the genus *Tenuidactylus* from Odesa. The first genetic data confirmed the affiliation of the Odesa population to *T. bogdanovi* which forms a separate genetic lineage different from the closely related species *T. fedtschenkoi*. In 2021 we found a specimen of *Pseudopus apodus* from Odesa in the museum collection. Although we have several hypotheses about the origin, one of them is this specimen was introduced most probably from the native range (Crimea or Caucasus). Completely unexpected are individuals of *Anolis* that were found in the Odesa seaport in 2021. We collected and genetically analyzed the DNA of two individuals and compared them with published data. We found that one individual is affiliated with *A. carolinensis*, particularly to the Gulf Coast/Inland clade and the haplogroup with samples from Wood County (Texas, US). The second individual was identified as *A. sagrei*, affiliated to the Southern Cuba clade that is also present in the introduced population from Florida where we suspect this introduced specimen came from.



978-86-80335-19-3

