



POSTERS

GENETIC AND CLONAL VARIATION IN THE PARTHENOGENETIC LIZARD SPECIES *Darevskia armeniaca* (Mehely, 1909)

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Nowadays approximately 80 taxa of unisexual vertebrates have been described. Among them, reproduction in the complete absence of males is restricted to reptiles, especially among lizards and is referred to as true parthenogenesis. The Lacertidae was the first family in which this phenomenon was discovered among Squamata. The genus *Darevskia* is of special significance, because these lizards have been the subject of extensive ecological and biogeographical studies, and because parthenogenesis has probably arisen several times within the group. *D. armeniaca*, one of the seven parthenogenetic species, arose from the interspecific hybridization of *D. valentini* and *D. mixta*, and exhibits low mitochondrial DNA and allozyme variability. In this study, we performed microsatellite genotyping of 127 specimens of *D. armeniaca* from 14 Armenian and one Ukrainian (introduced about 50 years ago from Armenia) populations. Using 4 microsatellite loci, 15 clonal lineages were detected in *D. armeniaca*. Some of them were found as major clones, distributed in various populations, and other's represented rare clones, geographically restricted. It was shown that in the introduced Ukrainian population *D. armeniaca*, new genotypes (probably clones) were detected after the invasion. Some genetic characteristics of the populations and their phylogenetic relationships were also estimated.

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