



POSTERS

MOLECULAR PHYLOGENY AND PHYLOGEOGRAPHY OF *Hellenolacerta graeca* IN SOUTH CONTINENTAL GREECE: INSIGHTS FROM MITOCHONDRIAL AND NUCLEAR DNA DATA

Panayiotis ZONTOS, Kostas SAGONAS, Petros LYMBERAKIS and Nikos POULAKAKIS*

Natural History Museum of Crete and Department of Biology, Vassilika Vouton, University of Crete, Irakleio, Crete, Greece, Emails: poulakakis@nhmc.uoc.gr, poulakakis@biology.uoc.gr

* *Corresponding author*

The lizard family of Lacertidae is one of the most diverse and widespread families throughout Eurasia and Africa. The Greek rock lizard, *Hellenolacerta graeca* (Bedriaga, 1886) is the only species that belongs to the genus *Hellenolacerta*. The species is endemic to Peloponnisos (southern continental Greece). Due to its particular morphology, *H. graeca* was recently distinguished by taxonomists from the other species of the genus *Lacerta*. To date, there has been no systematic molecular research on this species. In this study, we examined the intraspecific phylogenetic relationships of *H. graeca* populations from Peloponnisos, using two mitochondrial (cytochrome b and 16S rRNA) and one nuclear (NKTR) gene fragments. We attempted to clarify the taxonomic status of this species and identify its geographical patterns, which might help in reconstructing the evolutionary history of *H. graeca* in southern Greece.