The ratio of blood parasites between hybrids and their parental species of rock lizards of genus *Darevskia*

M. ARAKELYAN

Department of Zoology, Yerevan State University, Aleck-Manukian 1,Yerevan 0025, Armenia; arakelyanmarine@yahoo.com

The parasitological observation of blood smears of hybrids *D. valentini* x *D. unisexualis* and *D. valentini* x *D. armeniaca* and their parental species from sympatric zone near village Kuchak (central part of Armenia) has detected at least five forms (or species) of blood parasites of genus *Karyolysys* (Sporozoa, Coccidia, Adeleida, Haemogregarinidae) which was previously described by Beyer et al. (1961-1984).

Comparative analyze of abundance of blood parasites has shown that all studied hybrid lizards (N=23) with exception one adult and two subadults individuals were infected by them. The average percent of infected erythrocytes was 2,85±0,27. The blood of all lizards of the paternal species *D. valentini* (N=11) was infected and have similar average percent of infected erythrocytes (2,82±0.35). Contrariwise, the blood of the both maternal species *D. armeniaca*, *D. unisexualis* was quiet clear. There were not notice infected erythrocytes on smears of individuals of *D. unisexualis* (N=19) from studied samples. Only 4 infected lizards among 11 individuals of *D. armeniaca* were detected and their average percent of infected blood cells was equal 0.09±0.02.

Thus, the prevalence of infection was significantly higher either in bisexual species *D. valentini* or hybrid individuals than in parthenogenetic lizards. This result problematical for explain, although we have some presupposition like positive relationship between body size and abundance of parasite, and also greater intensity of parasite infection in males than in females.

14th European Congress of Herpetology and SEH Ordinary General Meeting, Porto (Portugal), 19-23 September 2007