

How detection probabilities of *Lacerta agilis* change with the weather

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At present, there is no standard field survey method to monitor the UK's populations of *Lacerta agilis*.

Counts from a closed captive population of *L. agilis* were taken at regular intervals through 2005 and the weather data were recorded every thirty minutes for the whole year. Analysis has been conducted using AIC values and weights to investigate which individual and combinations of environmental variables are linked to the high *L. agilis* count values. The influence of these variables on the detection probabilities of *L. agilis* within this population will be discussed.

Real life examples of how the variance of detection probabilities affects the population estimates of *L. agilis* on heathland habitat will be presented with data collected from three seasons of field work (2005 – 2007).

Suggestions and considerations will be made for those looking towards developing a “standardised” field survey method for reptiles and implications will be discussed for those looking to develop the method with a minimum/limited number of site visits.