



Oral Presentation
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Population Ecology

Life-history traits in a population of the Artvin lizard, *Darevskia derjugini*

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ABSTRACT

The Artvin Lizard, *Darevskia derjugini* (Nikolsky, 1898), is distributed in the Black Sea coastal region of Turkey (Provinces of Trabzon, Rize and Artvin), Georgia, Azerbaijan and Russia. The vertical distribution of the species is up to 1700 m a.s.l. It is classified as “near threatened” in the IUCN red List of Threatened species. In this study, we investigated age structure, age at sexual maturity and lifespan (as demographic life-history traits) as well as body size of a *Darevskia derjugini* population (n=30, 13 males, 17 females) from Murgul, Artvin, using skeletochronology. Our findings indicated that age upon attaining sexual maturity was three years for both sexes in this high-altitude population. The maximum longevity was seven years. There was no statistically significant difference between male and female individuals in terms of average age. Female individuals were significantly larger than male individuals. As reported for many lizards, we found a significant positive relationship between age and body size within each sex of Artvin lizard. The information given about some life history characteristics of a near-threatened species in this study may contribute to effective conservation management in the future.

Keywords: Artvin lizard, skeletochronology, body size, age, near threatened.

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