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Evolutionary and demographic history of the Maltese wall lizard *Podarcis filfolensis*

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We investigated the phylogeography and historical demography of the Maltese wall lizard *Podarcis filfolensis* using both mitochondrial and nuclear genetic markers. We included samples from all the main islands of the Maltese and Pelagian archipelagos and from every islet and offshore rock where this species occurs. The phylogenetic analyses show two main mitochondrial phylogroups, one occurring in the island of Malta and the islet of Filfla (Maltese lineage) and the other one mainly distributed on Gozo and Comino islands and their surrounding islets, and on the Pelagian islands (Gozitan lineage). We discuss what demographic dynamics and microevolutionary processes have been involved in shaping the pattern of genetic diversity and distribution of *P. filfolensis* within the general framework of Pleistocene biogeography of temperate biota in coastal areas.

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