



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

**CLONAL VARIATION IN THE PARTHENOGENETIC LIZARD SPECIES *Darevskia rostombekowi*
(LACERTIDAE)**

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The all-female Caucasian rock lizard *Darevskia rostombekowi* and other parthenogenetic species of this genus reproduce normally via true parthenogenesis. Typically, diploid parthenogenetic reptiles exhibit some amount of clonal diversity. However, allozyme data from *D. rostombekowi* have suggested that this species consists of a single clone. In the present study, we evaluate variation at three microsatellite loci in 42 specimens of *D. rostombekowi* from four populations from Armenia. The analyses reveal multiclonal genetic structure in this species. All individuals are heterozygous at the loci and they yield five genotypes. The major clone occurs in 24 individuals and involves three populations. Four rare clones involve one or several individuals from one or two populations.

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