

P15 - Parasitaemia in two lowland *Podarcis* populations in Serbia

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We tested level of parasite infestation in relation to anthropogenic disturbance and habitat alteration on two lowland populations of *Podarcis* lizards in Serbia. The population of *Podarcis tauricus* (N = 90) was examined at the Hatarice pasture, a rather intact steppe habitat at the edge of Deliblato Sands nature reserve. The population of *Podarcis muralis* (N = 63) was examined at the Reva Lake, a suburban area outside of Belgrade subjected to high levels of anthropogenic disturbance – traffic, littering and intensive construction at the site.

Our research was conducted during the whole activity season, from April to October. The lizards were collected by noose or by hand, measured for snout to vent length (SVL) and body mass, to calculate body condition index. A small blood sample was collected from each individual. The animals were marked and released after short monitoring. They were showing no visible signs of stress. After preservation, blood smears were examined by microscope for signs of infestation with Apicomplexa.

Overall, the percentage of infestation was significantly higher in *P. muralis* population than in *P. tauricus*. For females only, the level of infestation was also significantly higher in *P. muralis* population while, for males, there were no statistically significant differences in infestation level. Infestation level between sexes for each species did not differ significantly.