

Reproduction of *Acanthodactylus erythrurus* (Reptilia, Lacertidae) in central Spain. A preliminary study.

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We studied 143 specimens (84 males and 59 females) from a population of *A. erythrurus* located between the townships of Torrelodones and Hoyo de Manzanares (Madrid province, central Spain). Specimens were captured in successive visits to the study area during 1984 and 1985. For this study, the pertinent measures were SVL and total weight were calculated. In females, the number and diameter of the ovarian follicles and the number, length and width of the oviductal eggs were recorded. All data were processed according to sex and corresponding 15-day period.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sexual maturity

The minimum SVL seen in a reproductive male was 65 mm, larger than reported by BONS (1969) or SEVA (1982). Minimum length for reproductive females was 62.5 mm, also larger than those obtained by BONS (1972) and SEVA (1982). We encountered males and females of this size in spring, after the second hibernation (pers. obs.).

Mating: copulations

The reddish coloring of the proximal hindleg and the tail of adults females traditionally considered a sign of mating activity (ARNOLD, 1978; SALVADOR, 1985; BARBADILLO, 1987) was not visible in some females until the second half of April and peaked in May and first half of June.

The copulation period took place from the second half of May to the last half of July.

Sexual cycle of males

A. erythrurus presents seasonal sexual cycles: testicular length, width and weight attains their maximum development

between the second half of June. Maximum epididymal weight occurs in the first half of July. Testicles and epididymes regress in the summer months.

Sexual cycle of females

Figure 1 illustrates the evolution of maximum ovarian follicle diameters in 1984 and 1985. We confirmed ovulation with a minimum diameter of 10.8 mm.

Oviductal eggs. Eggs-laying

Egg-laying took place between the first half of June and early August. The mean length and width of the oviductal eggs was 16.2×9.7 mm. The clutches contained 2-7 eggs.

Some females can effect two egg-laying per reproductive period, the first usually in the second-third week of June and the second probably in the second half of July and early days of August.

Eclosions

Eclosions took place from early August to late October, after an incubation time of 65-80 days.

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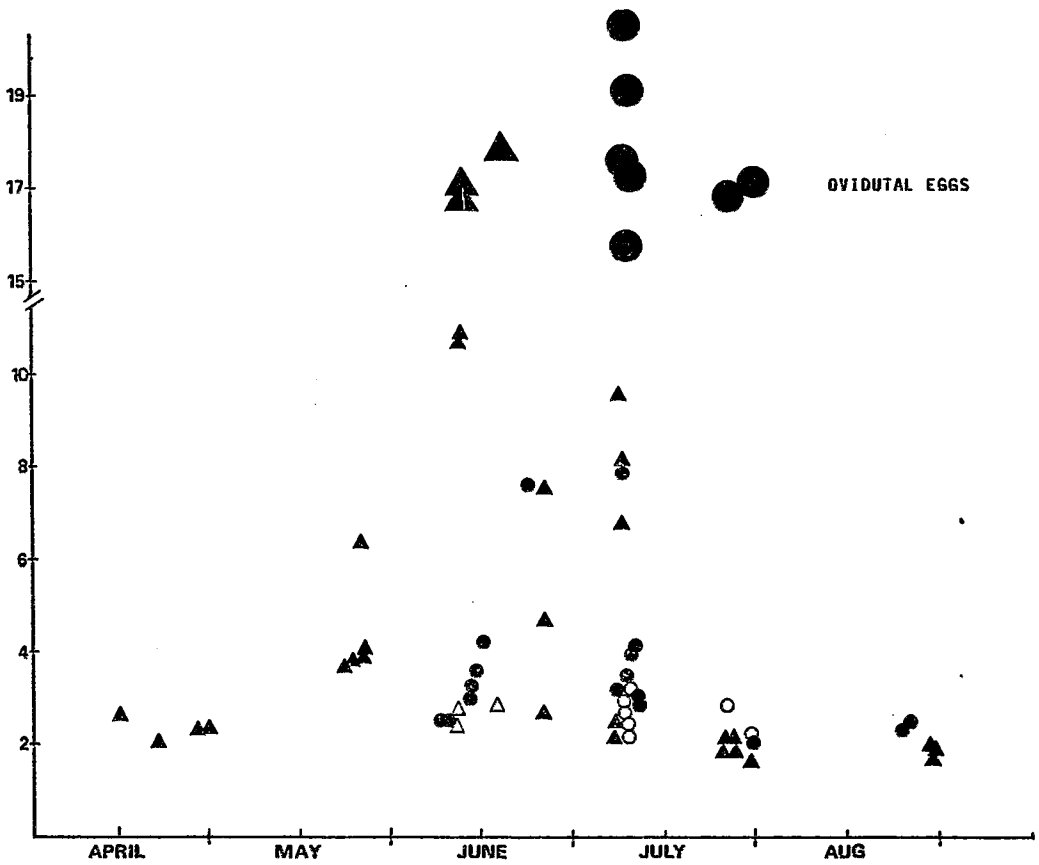


Fig. 1. Representation of maximum diameter of ovarian follicles in the different 15-day periods in 1984 and 1985 . females with ovidutal eggs.