



POSTERS

COLOUR ASSORTATIVE MATING IN COLOUR POLYMORPHIC *Podarcis muralis* IS INDEPENDENT OF POPULATION MORPH COMPOSITION AND DIVERSITY

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Previous work with a colour polymorphic population of *Podarcis muralis* revealed that lizards pair by ventral colour, favouring same colour (i.e. homomorphic) male-female pairs. Such assortative pairing, which probably results in colour assortative mating, can have consequences for the genetic structure of the population and potentially promote speciation. The population previously studied, located in the Pyrenees, encompasses white, yellow and orange animals, as well as intermediate white-orange and yellow-orange morphs. However, other Pyrenean populations of *P. muralis* have less ventral colour morphs. We tested the generality of assortative colour pairing, extending our previous analyses to populations with different morph compositions and frequencies, including pentamorphic and trimorphic (i.e. white, orange and white-orange) populations. The results show that the assortative pattern of pairing is similar in all the populations analysed, and, hence, independent of morph composition and not restricted to pentamorphic populations. This suggests that assortative mating by colour is a general phenomenon for colour polymorphic populations of *P. muralis*, at least in the Eastern Pyrenean lineage.