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### INTERACTION BETWEEN THE BALEARIC LIZARD (*PODARCIS LILFORDI*) AND ELEONORA'S FALCON (*FALCO ELEONORAE*)

Several previous publications mention a possible symbiosis between Eleonora's Falcon and *Lacerta erhardii* on the Aegean islands (Schultze-Westrum, 1961; Walter, 1967). According to these authors, during the nesting period of Eleonora's Falcon the lizards migrate to areas around the nests, and disappear from other parts of the island. At the nests the lizards feed on flies, remains of the falcon's prey, and ectoparasites from the downy falcon young, and in return are not molested by the adult falcons.

During a field study conducted in the Cabrera Archipelago, Balearic Islands, we encountered a similar symbiotic relationship between *Podarcis lilfordi* and Eleonora's Falcon on islets (Imperial, Xapat, Estels) to the south of Cabrera.

During observations on 4 September 1976 at a falcon nest on the islet Xapat Petit, the falcon brought a bird (*Acrocephalus scirpaesus*) and deposited it at the nest. The bird carcass was immediately attacked by two lizards and carried away by them. On 6 and 7 September 1976 at a falcon nest on the islet Xapat Gros, I observed lizards rush to take discarded remains of prey birds, upon which the falcon attending the nest protested and scared the lizards away. On this same islet, also on 6 and 7 September 1976, I observed lizards entering nests where female falcons were brooding chicks, crawling between the chicks and eating remains of prey without being molested by the falcons.

Information on the ecology and food habits of the Balearic lizard is scarce (Eisentraut, 1950). I examined the stomach contents of eight lizards collected on 6 October 1975 in the vicinity of a falcon nest on Estel Des Dos Cols. In addition to insects and plant fragments, I found remains of five birds (*Turdus philomelos*, *Erithacus rubecula*, *Fidicula* sp., and two unidentified). The food of the falcons is primarily small birds that cross the Mediterranean during migration. They do not usually capture lizards, but as an exception we found remains of a lizard in a falcon nest on Estel Des Dos Cols on 5 September 1976.

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