

Environmental correlates of paedomorphosis and metamorphosis in palmate newts

Mathieu DENOËL¹, G. Francesco FICETOLA²

¹*Laboratory of Fish and Amphibian Ethology, Behavioural Biology Unit, University of Liège, 22 Quai van Beneden, 4020 Liège, Belgium; mathieu.denoel@ulg.ac.be*

²*Department of Environmental and Earth Sciences, University of Milano-Bicocca, 1 Piazza della Scienza, 20126 Milano, Italy*

Paedomorphosis and metamorphosis are alternative developmental pathways expressed in populations of several caudate species. They result respectively in the development of individuals that mature in the larval stage (the paedomorphs) and of larvae that metamorphose into a terrestrial morph that acquire maturity later (the metamorphs). The ontogenetic trajectories rely on environmental cues but their effects across both space and time have not been examined yet. To determine the relationships between environmental variables and morph expression, we sampled more than 150 populations of palmate newts (*Lissotriton helveticus*) during a 10-yr study and we used an information-theoretic approach to test the likelihood of multiple ecological processes. All environmental processes influenced the relative abundance of both morphs. Paedomorphs were particularly advantaged in deep and oxygenated wetlands, without fish, and surrounded by vertical slopes. Higher forest and lower aquatic vegetation cover were also associated with a higher prevalence of paedomorphosis over metamorphosis. Analyses of paedomorph variation along time confirm these conclusions on the three variables that showed inter-annual variations (water depth, oxygen content, and aquatic vegetation). All together these results show that paedomorphosis and metamorphosis depend on multiple environmental factors and can evolve rapidly. This could explain the absence and extirpation of paedomorphosis in natural populations, particularly when affected by anthropogenic pressures. The degradation of habitats inhabited by paedomorphs and the rarity of these populations make them at a high risk of disappearance.

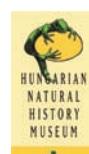
ORAL PRESENTATIONS: 23 August (morning)

8:30–9:15		Plenary Lecture: Z. Takács: The deadliest lifesavers: reptile venoms at the forefront of medicine	
	Chair: R. Shine		
9:30–11:00	Session 1a: Behaviour of reptiles Chair: W. Hödl	Room 1	Room 2
9:30–9:45	A. Ibáñez, P. López, J. Martín: Antipredatory behaviour of Spanish terrapins depends on reproductive state and individual conspicuousness	Chair: T. Hartel G. Ficetola, C. Rondinini, A. Bonardi, V. Karatya, E. Padova-Schioppa, A. Angulo: An evaluation of the robustness of global amphibian range maps	Session 2a: Ecology of amphibians Chair: T. Hartel G. Ficetola, D. Ortonello, M. V. Pastorino: Long-term dynamics of a Speleomantes striatus population living underground
9:45–10:00	A. Golubović, M. Andjelković, D. Arsovski, S. Djordjević, V. Ikonović, A. Vujović, X. Bonner, L. Tomović: Tortoise's shell—a blessing and a curse. How tortoises cope with various obstacles	M. Denoël, G. F. Ficetola: Environmental correlates of paedomorphosis and metamorphosis in palmate newts	N. Üzüm, Ç. Günnis: Age and some growth parameters in two insular populations of <i>Lyciasalamandra fasziae</i> (Caudata: Salamandridae) from Southwestern Turkey
10:00–10:15	Ch. Broeckhoven: Influence of tritophagy on prehension mode in cordylid lizards: a morphological and kinematic analysis	S. Salvaidio, F. Otero, D. Ortonello, M. V. Pastorino: Long-term dynamics of a Speleomantes striatus population living underground	T. Reinhardt, S. Seifert, M. Wöhrel: New life, new life: linking the evolution of salamander larval habitat choice to ecosystem processes
10:15–10:30	M. Baquero, M. Whiting, R. Peters: Geographic variation in the signalling behaviour of the lackey dragon, <i>Anphibolurus muricatus</i>	N. Üzüm, Ç. Günnis: Age and some growth parameters in two insular populations of <i>Lyciasalamandra fasziae</i> (Caudata: Salamandridae) from Southwestern Turkey	T. Reinhardt, S. Seifert, M. Wöhrel: New life, new life: linking the evolution of salamander larval habitat choice to ecosystem processes
10:30–10:45	P. López, J. Ortega, J. Martín: Effects of climatic factors on the evolution of sexual chemical signals of the Iberian wall lizard, <i>Podarcis hispanica</i>	Ph. Werner: Determinants of parapatric range limits in contact zones of European salamanders	
10:45–11:00	M.A. Carrero, E. Argáñez, R. Duarte: Investigating the degree of behavioural plasticity in lacertids by comparing two populations of <i>Podarcis carbonelli</i> under different disturbance regimes		
11:00–11:30	Coffee break		
11:30–12:30	Session 1b: Behaviour of reptiles Chair: W. Hödl	Room 1	Room 2
11:30–11:45	O. Mohaić, K. Bajer, J. Török, G. Herczeg: Experimental evidence for environmental factors affecting colouration in the European green lizard (<i>Lacerta viridis</i>)	Session 2b: Ecology of amphibians Chair: T. Hartel R. Ramap, M. Markus, T. Kaart: Habitat use of the common spadefoot toad (<i>Pelobates fuscus</i>) in Estonia—is forest essential?	G. Ludwig, U. Siñase, B. Pešter: Fall migration behaviour and hibernation site selection in alpine common frogs (<i>Rana temporaria</i>)
11:45–12:00	K. Bajer, O. Mohaić, J. Török, G. Herczeg: Male throat UV colouration affects maternal investment in European green lizard		B. Vágó, T. Kovács, P. Katona, J. Ujszegi, Á. Csillag, M. Szederkenyi, M. Griggo, H. Hoi, A. Hetvég: Reproductive interference between <i>Rana dalmatina</i> and <i>R. temporaria</i> affects reproductive success in natural populations
12:00–12:15	K. Bajer, G. Horváth, O. Mohaić, J. Török, G. Herczeg: Green lizard (<i>Lacerta viridis</i>) personalities: behaviour and individual quality at different ontogenetic stages		Zs. Mikló, J. Ujszegi, Z. Gal, A. Hetvég: The impacts of glyphosate and predation threat on tadpoles of the agile frog (<i>Rana dalmatina</i>) in different experimental venues
12:15–12:30	A. Corada, E. García-Muñoz, M. A. Carretero: Predation pressure versus antipredator behaviour: a comparative study using a lacertid model		
12:30–14:00	Lunch break		



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PROGRAMME & ABSTRACTS



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