

COMMENTARY

Note to Odierna G, Arribas OJ. 2005. The karyology of ‘*Lacerta mosorensis* Kolombatovic, 1886, and its bearing on phylogenetic relationships to other European Mountain lizards, Italian Journal of Zoology 72:93–96

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Odierna & Arribas (2005) in their paper concerning the karyology of *Lacerta mosorensis* (Mosor rock lizard) wrote: “... ‘*Lacerta*’ *mosorensis* ... is still a very little known species”, and “... chromosome data are still unknown.” (See Introduction, page 93.) Based on these and other assumptions, the authors performed the karyological analysis of the species and reported the results of their investigation in an interesting and well sounding paper.

By reading the title, the introduction and the references of this paper, a reader is induced to think that, until the publication of the paper by Odierna & Arribas (2005), the karyotype of *Lacerta mosorensis* was really unknown. However, this is not the truth. In fact, the karyotype of *Lacerta mosorensis* has been known since 1991 and it was described by Capula & Lapini (1991) in their paper entitled “The karyotype of *Lacerta mosorensis* (Reptilia: Lacertidae): Evidence for a new case of female heterogamety in a lacertid lizard” (Atti della Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei 2:51–57).

Capula and Lapini (not mentioned at all by Odierna and Arribas) described the chromosome complement and female heterogamety of the Mosor rock lizard for the first time. It must be noted that the results of the paper by Capula & Lapini (1991) were obtained analysing the karyotype of two adult

males and two adult females by standard staining methods. These results are comparable with those by Odierna & Arribas (2005), which on the other hand performed a thorough karyological analysis using standard and banding staining methods on two young females (but not on males).

Odierna and Arribas are two researchers who have long been involved in the study of the karyology and genetics of lacertid lizards, and thus it is surprising that they failed to know the paper by Capula and Lapini, which was published 15 years ago. This is even more surprising when we take into account that one of the authors (Odierna) is an Italian researcher, and that the paper by Capula & Lapini (1991) was published in a well-known journal, which is easily available for consultation and it is also indexed in the *Zoological Record*.

References

- Capula M, Lapini L. 1991. The karyotype of *Lacerta mosorensis* (Reptilia: Lacertidae): Evidence for a new case of female heterogamety in a lacertid lizard. Atti della Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei 2:51–57.
- Odierna G, Arribas OJ. 2005. The karyology of ‘*Lacerta mosorensis* Kolombatovic, 1886, and its bearing on phylogenetic relationships to other European mountain lizards. Italian Journal of Zoology 72:93–96.

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