

**Morphology and Taxonomic Revalidation of *Lacerta agilis garzoni* Palacios & Castroviejo, 1975**

Arribas, Oscar J.

Av. Fco. Cambo 23, 5º , 08003- Barcelona, Spain.

318 specimens of *Lacerta agilis* (both conserved and alive) have been studied for 8 meristic characters in order to ascertain the taxonomic status of *Lacerta agilis garzoni* (synonymized by Bischoff, 1984), a very localised subspecies from Western Pyrenees, considered Vulnerable in spanish red data book (Blanco & Gonzalez, 1992).

45 specimens of this later taxon have been compared with samples of *L. a. argus*, *L. a. bosnica*, *L. a. chersonensis*, *L. a. exigua* and *L. a. boemica* by means of ANOVA and Multivariate Canonical analyses separated for males and females.

The results show clearly the existence of two very different groups: Balcanic and Caucasian groups (Bischoff, 1988).

*L. agilis garzoni* appears well differentiated in the study, and is thus considered as a good subspecies, more differentiated than the british populations of *L. a. agilis* that are isolated almost since 7500 years BP (Polunin and Walters, 1985).

*L. a. argus* seems to be a mere synonym of *L. a. agilis*.

The few specimens of *L. a. bosnica* studied seem to indicate differentiation also from *L. a. agilis*.

The three asiatic-caucasian subspecies studied are morphologically different.

Finally, considerations about biogeography, origin and present distribution of *L. a. garzoni* are given.