COMMENTARY

Evidence for a W chromosome polymorphism in “Lacerta” mosorensis not revealed by Capula in his note (Italian Journal of Zoology 72:93–96)

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In a note appeared on a recent issue of the Italian Journal of Zoology, Capula (2006) emphasized that they (Capula & Lapini 1991) were the first authors to describe the karyotype and to detect a ZZ/ZW sex chromosome system in “Lacerta” mosorensis. Capula noted in his commentary (2006) that Odierna and Arrbas (2005) did not refer to Capula and Lapini’s 1991 paper. Indeed, our literature search was limited to the main and authoritative papers and databases on chromosomes of lacertid lizards and the morphology, content and distribution of DNA sequences of the W chromosome are taxonomically informative (Olmo et al. 1987; Olmo et al. 1993), for example, a difference in W size, as between two populations of “L.” mosorensis, has been found in populations referred to as different species, such as L. viridis and L. trilineata or in L. kulzeri complex (Olmo & Signorini 2005). Thirdly, differences in Z and W sex chromosomes might have played an important role in preventing or negatively affecting the chromosome pairing and segregation of the hybrids (e.g. John 1981; King 1993). All these considerations point to a possible diversification between populations of “L.” mosorensis and urge for additional karyological and other types of analyses on specimens from different populations of this species. In this connection, data from Carranza et al. (2004) (although they do not make it clear as to which population their specimens come from), are interesting: their specimens also display a notable molecular diversification, suggesting the existence of a real and deeper than the currently-processed differentiation among different populations of this species.

References


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