Effects of Autotomy on Movement Patterns in *Psammodromus algirus*

Eleven adult lizards (*Psammodromus algirus*) (6 male, 5 female) were captured and taken to the author's laboratory to evaluate the costs and effects of caudal autotomy (i.e., loss of all but the proximal 2 cm of their tails) on escape performance before and after tail loss. The authors indicate that a control group of tailed lizards also was studied to determine the repeatability of locomotor patterns between trials. The authors found that tail loss had a significant effect on movement patterns as tailless lizards exhibited significantly slower speeds during bursts of locomotion and the distances traveled within these bursts were significantly reduced. They also found that pausing time increased and overall speeds dropped even greater than burst speeds. Loss of the tails also had the effect of decreasing main stride and significantly shortened escape distances. As there are many lizards that employ caudal autotomy as a defensive strategy, these results have relevance for the ecology and fitness of lizards that exhibit autotomy.

MARTIN, J., AND R. A. AVERY. 1998. Effects of tail loss on the movement patterns of the lizard, *Psammodromus algirus*. Functional Ecology 12(5):794–802.

Correspondence to: J. Martin, Departamento de Ecología Evolutiva, Museo Nactional de Ciencias Naturales, CSIC, José Gutiérrez Abascal 2, 28006, Madrid, Spain.