



Parasit



P3.

Depauperate helminth community in the parthenogenetic lacertid *Darevskia uzzelli* (Darevsky et Danielyan, 1977) endemic from NW Turkey

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Darevskia uzzelli (Darevsky et Danielyan, 1977) is a parthenogenetic lacertid lizard endemic to a restricted range in the vicinity of Horasan and Selim, NE Anatolia. Twenty specimens were captured from two different populations and analyzed for gastrointestinal helminthes. Only one male and one female of the nematode *Skrjabinodon* sp. (Pharyngodonidae) were found in two of the searched hosts. In consequence, the infection and diversity parameters were extremely low and suggest a depauperate helminth community for this parthenogenetic lacertid lizard. In fact, the infection and diversity values fall among the lowest within the Palaearctic saurians. Comparison of our results with those known for the parthenogenetic teiid species of the New World genus *Aspidoscelis* Fitzinger, 1843 (former *Cnemidophorus*), suggests some features that may characterize the helminth faunas of unisexual lizards: (i) very poor helminth communities; (ii) they share parasites with most other congeners; (iii) Pharyngodonidae nematodes are the most important parasites in these depauperate helminth communities. Some hypothesis on the evolution on sex suggest that identical clonal lineages should be more vulnerable to parasitism over time than genetically diverse sexual lineages. If so, parthenogenetic lizards should harbour more parasites than their recent unisexual parental ancestors. Nevertheless, some other studies do not corroborate that hypothesis. Although we have not compared the helminth communities of *D. uzzelli* with those of *D. valentini* (Boettger, 1892) and *D. raddei* (Boettger, 1892) (parental lineages), present results also deviate from the above mentioned hypothesis. An alternative possible reason for this extremely poor helminthfauna found in *D. uzzelli* may be the decreasing of opportunities for interchanging helminthes with direct life cycles, since less intra- and interspecific contacts are expected among unisexual lizards than among bisexual ones.

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