

6th Symposium on the Lacertids of the Mediterranean Basin – 23-27 June, 2008 – Lesvos, Greece
University of the Aegean – Dept. of Biology, University of Athens,
Societas Hellenica Herpetologica



6th Symposium on the Lacertids of the Mediterranean Basin

Second Circular

The Organizing Committee of the 6th Symposium on the Lacertids of the Mediterranean Basin is in the pleasant position to present the last news about the forthcoming meeting, which will take place at Molyvos, Lesvos Island, Greece. The Symposium is organized and sponsored by the University of the Aegean, the Dept. of Biology of the University of Athens, the Prefectural Authority of Lesvos and the *Societas Hellenica Herpetologica*.

Announcements

The Organizing Committee is happy to announce one more plenary lecture, which come to be added to the already existing lectures. Hence, together with our two eminent invited speakers, Prof. Jonathan Losos and Prof. Erik Svensson, we would like to welcome Dr. Shai Meiri from the Centre for Population Biology, Imperial College.

Proceedings

The Editors of *Amphibia-Reptilia*, the peer-reviewed scientific journal of the *Societas Europaea Herpetologica* (current impact factor: 0.795, the same as Journal of Herpetology and almost the same as Copeia) and the Organizing Committee come to an agreement for the publication of the most outstanding contributions presented in the meeting. Those papers meriting publication for A-R standards (up to a maximum of 15-20) will be published in the same issue of the Journal together with the regular papers to appear in A-R (there will be no special issue), and introduced by a Preface article highlighting the importance and the novelty of the various contributions for the international studies of lizard biology. All papers will be edited by two editors from the congress editorial office, Luca Luiselli (as Editor for the biology of reptiles for A-R) and two anonymous reviewers. The papers selected for Amphibia-Reptilia will need to be not only of good technical quality, but also of general relevance for herpetology. Papers of local interest will not be considered for publication in Amphibia-Reptilia. For your guidance, please note that, for instance, diet studies of specific lizard populations may not be selected, whereas more comprehensive and comparative diet studies may be selected. The papers that will not be included in this peer-reviewed A-R issue will be published in a separate volume, edited by the congress editorial office.

Outline of Scientific Program

The Symposium will focus on various aspects of research carried out on Mediterranean Lacertids. However, contributions from other zoogeographical regions will also be welcomed. The Symposium will include 3 plenary lectures, 6 regular sessions, 2 poster sessions and 2 round tables. Suggestions for topics of sessions and workshops are encouraged.

The details of the program are still under consideration. However, following thematic sessions can be indicated: Systematics & Evolution, Conservation & Biodiversity. Oral Presentations should not exceed 20 min providing 5 min for Q/A. The Poster Sessions will be arranged so that the author will be able to present his work in front of the poster during 5 minutes; another 5 minutes will be provided for discussion.

The Organizing Committee urgently needs your suggestions concerning Round Table Discussions. Up to now we received the following proposals: "Conservation of endangered and isolated populations and species" and "Describing new-old species: a brave shake in the Systematics of Lacertids".

The outline of the program is as follows:

Monday, June 23

8.00 – 18:30 Arrival and Registration
18.30 – 19:15 Opening Ceremony
19.30 Welcome Party

Tuesday, June 24

9:00 – 10:00 Plenary Lecture, Q/A
10:00 – 12:55 Oral Presentations
13:00 – 15:00 Free time
15:00 – 16:15 Oral Presentations
16:45 – 17:45 Poster Session
18:00 – 19:00 Round Table
21:00 Symposium Banquet

Wednesday, June 25

Excursion to Fossil Forest of Sigri and the coastal city of Eressos, birthplace of the ancient poet Sappho

Thursday, June 26

9:00 – 10:00 Plenary Lecture, Q/A
10:00 – 12:55 Oral Presentations
13:00 – 15:00 Free time
15:00 – 16:15 Oral Presentations
16:45 – 17:45 Poster Session
18:00 – 19:00 Round Table

Friday, June 27

9:00 – 10:00 Plenary Lecture, Q/A
10:00 – 12:55 Oral Presentations
13:00 – 16:00 Free time
16:00 – 17:45 Oral Presentations
18:15 – 19:30 Special Session
19.30 - Closing Ceremony

Travel

There are regular domestic flights daily to Lesvos Airport *Odysseas Elytis* from Athens International Airport (appr. duration 35 min) and from Thessalonica (appr. duration 25 min) carried out by two airlines companies (Olympic Airways and Aegean Airlines), but international charter flights may also be available. Note that there is a considerable discount (up to 50%) for the early booking of air-tickets. Alternatively various boat types cover by sea the distance from Greece's main Port Piraeus to Mytilini (capital city of Lesvos). The duration of the trip, depending the type of boat, varies from 6 to 13 hours. A bus service will be provided directly from Mytilini (both Airport and Port) to the Congress venue in Molyvos (70 km away). There are more ship itineraries from Thessalonica and Cavala. If participants are interested to explore by themselves the beautiful countryside of Lesvos, car rentals are present in Mytilini and Molyvos, but it is recommendable to make reservations well in advance.

Accommodation

Hotel prices will be provided in couple of weeks since at the moment Organizing Committee together with the authorized Travel Agency are trying to get the lowest possible process. A detailed note will be sent just before Christmas Holidays.

For any reservation or question, for both accommodation and travel, please communicate with the Tsolos Travel Agency, authorized from the Symposium for travel and accommodation support.

<http://www.tsolos.gr>; info@tsolos.gr

Registration Fee

Professional fee, **by** March 31, 2008 - **90** Euros

Professional fee, **after** March 31, 2008 - **120** US Euros

Student fee (student verification needed) - **40** US Euros

Accompanying person fee - **30** US Euros

The Fee covers: (1) the volume of abstracts, (2) welcome party, (3) Symposium Banquet (4) coffee breaks, (5) shuttle transport from Mytilini Airport to Molyvos (two itineraries on 23/6 and two on 28/6) (6) excursion to Fossil Forest of Sigri and in the coastal city of Eressos, (7) the volume of the Conference Proceedings. The Fee for accompanying person covers all the costs listed above, except for the volume of abstracts and the proceedings of the Conference.

All money should be made payable to the *Societas Herpetologica Hellenica* account (please, do not use cheques!):

Piraeus Bank, IBAN GR91 0172 0120 0050 1201 6061 740

Please send a notifying e-mail to Dr. Panayiota Marangou (p.maragou@wwf.gr) when deposit.

Deadline for Abstract Submission: March 31, 2008

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Shai Meiri (Imperial College) <s.meiri@imperial.ac.uk>

