

Study on the differences of BMI between olms found in cave and the ones sampled in spring

Original

Study on the differences of BMI between olms found in cave and the ones sampled in spring / Barzaghi, B.; Ficetola, G. F.; Grassi, G.; Creanza, T.; Zampieri, V.; Gajdošová, M.; Messina, V.; Lapadula, S.; Galbiati, M.; Balestra, V.; Manenti, R.. - (2023), pp. 94-95. (Intervento presentato al convegno XXIII European Congress of Herpetology tenutosi a United Kingdom nel 4-8 September 2023).

Availability:

This version is available at: 11583/2982557 since: 2023-09-28T14:45:47Z

Publisher:

University of Wolverhampton

Published

DOI:

Terms of use:

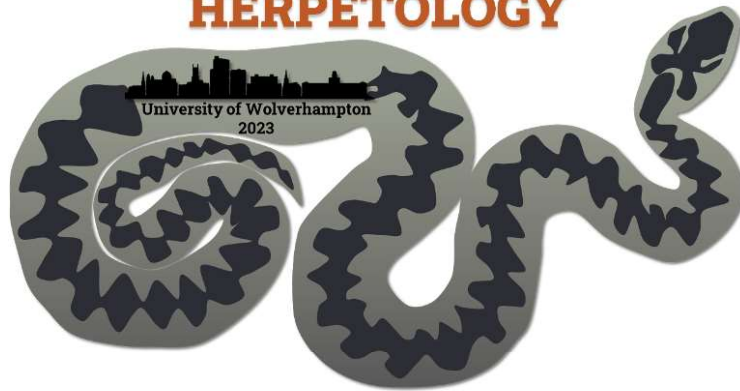
This article is made available under terms and conditions as specified in the corresponding bibliographic description in the repository

Publisher copyright

(Article begins on next page)

PROGRAMME & ABSTRACTS

22nd European Congress of **HERPETOLOGY**



UNIVERSITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON



amphibian and reptile
conservation



Austrian
Herpetological
Society



ARG UK



XXII European Congress of Herpetology, University of
Wolverhampton, United Kingdom

4th–8th September, 2023

Local Organising Committee

Mark O'Shea, Simon Maddock, Natasha Kruger, John Wilkinson, Deepak Veerappan, Rebecca Morris, Rémi Martin, Alice Pawlik, Kate Faulkner, Sharon Newill

Scientific Committee

Anita Malhotra, Xavier Harrison, Robert Jehle, Katharina Ruthsatz, Karen Siu Ting, Trent Garner, Anthony Herrel, David Gower, Jelka Crnobrnja-Isailović, Claudia Corti, Borislav Naumov, María Torres-Sánchez, Daniel Jablonski, Frances Orton, Melita Vamberger, Dušan Jelić, Flora Ihlow, Václav Gvoždík

SEH Council

Andreas Maletzky (President), Dušan Jelić (Vice President), Antigoni Kaliontzopoulou (General Secretary), Gentile Francesco Ficetola (Vice Secretary) Claudia Koch (Treasurer), Eva Ringler (Vice Treasurer), Salvador Carranza (First co-editor), Judit Vörös (co-editor), José Carlos Brito Vörös (Third co-editor), Hinrich Kaiser (Fourth co-editor)

Student Volunteers

Joshua Darkin, Luke Risbey, Millie Berry, Nerinea Klebs, Nicole Grimason, Rebecca Donnan

Please cite this volume as:

Malhotra, A., Harrison, X., Jehle, R., Ruthsatz, K., Ting, K.S., Garner, T., Herrel, A., Gower, D.J., Crnobrnja-Isailović, J., Corti, C., Naumov, B., Torres-Sánchez, M., Jablonski, D., Orton, F., Vamberger, M., Jelić, D., Ihlow, F., Gvoždík, V., O'Shea, M., Maddock, S., Kruger, N., Wilkinson, J., Pawlik, A., Morris, R., Martin, R & Deepak, V. 2023. XXIII European Congress of Herpetology, University of Wolverhampton, UK, 4–8 September, 2023.

Congress logo: Natasha Kruger

Herp photos: C. Dresh & British Herpetological Society

Study on the differences of Body Mass Index between olms found in cave and the ones sampled in spring

BARZAGHI, B.

Department of Environmental Science and Policy, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Celoria 10. 20133 Milan, Italy

FICETOLA, G.F.

Department of Environmental Science and Policy, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Celoria 10. 20133 Milan, Italy

GRASSI, G.

Department of Environmental Science and Policy, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Celoria 10. 20133 Milan, Italy

CREANZA, T.

Department of Environmental Science and Policy, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Celoria 10. 20133 Milan, Italy

ZAMPIERI, V.

Department of Environmental Science and Policy, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Celoria 10. 20133 Milan, Italy

GAJDOŠOVÁ, M.

Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

MESSINA, V.

Department of Environmental Science and Policy, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Celoria 10. 20133 Milan, Italy

LAPADULA, S.

Department of Environmental Science and Policy, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Celoria 10. 20133 Milan, Italy

GALBIATI, M.

Department of Environmental Science and Policy, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Celoria 10. 20133 Milan, Italy

BALESTRA, V.

Department of Environment, Land and Infrastructure Engineering, Politecnico di Torino, Italy

MANENTI, R.

Department of Environmental Science and Policy, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Celoria 10. 20133 Milan, Italy

Adaptations to cave life such as blindness, depigmentation and extremely reduced metabolism are key features of stygobiont species (which live in underground aquifers) that should also

prevent their survival in surface habitats. Nevertheless, the olm *Proteus anguinus*, a completely stygobious amphibian, has been reported in spring environments. Moreover, our previous results showed that its presence is linked to very specific factors such as hydroperiod and the absence of potential predators. In light of these results, we conducted a study with the aim of verifying whether the *Proteus* benefits from exploiting the trophic resources of spring habitats. Since June 2020 we have sampled 64 springs and 12 caves in the Monfalcone province (Italy), finding a total of 73 specimens (36 in springs, 37 in caves). We photographed, measured, and weighed each individual and then calculated their Body Mass Index (BMI). At the same time, we sampled the macrobenthos community by counting in a 30x30 cm plot each 2x2 m² to quantify the trophic resources. Finally, we tested the relationship between BMI, place of sampling and macrobenthos using GLMMs. Our results show that olms found in springs had a significantly higher BMI than those found in caves. Furthermore, the BMI of springs' olms was significantly related to the amount of trophic resources available. These findings strongly suggest that *P. anguinus* does benefit from being in surface environments and that its presence in spring habitats is most probably due to the larger amount of trophic resources available.

Key words: *Proteus*, Cave, Spring, Trophic resources, Ecotones