

Program & Book of Abstracts Belgrade 2022



Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković" National Institute of Republic of Serbia University of Belgrade, Serbia

PROGRAM & BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

21st European Congress of Herpetology



September 5th-9th, 2022 Belgrade

PUBLISHER

Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković" – National Institute of Republic of Serbia, University of Belgrade, Serbia

FOR PUBLISHER

Mirjana Mihailović, director of the Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković" – National Institute of Republic of Serbia, University of Belgrade

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CONGRESS LOGO DESIGN Dejan Brajović

BOOK COVER Tanja Vukov, Marko Mirč

EDITION Available electronically only

PLACE AND YEAR OF PUBLICATION Belgrade, 2022

ISBN 978-86-80335-19-3

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Reproductive systems and life histories

Poster presentation

Developmental stages of Triturus ivanbureschi

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Staging tables based on the external morphological characteristics are important for the needs of comparative embryological studies as they represent a baseline. Largebodied newts (Triturus spp.) have a transparent mucoid capsule that enables insight into the external morphology of the embryo during development. Triturus newts are characterized by the presence of chromosome 1 syndrome where about 50% of the offspring stops developing and dies during the mid embryonic period on the tail bud stage. In this study, we focused on the normal development of Balkan crested newt (Triturus ivanbureschi). During the breeding season animals were kept in the yard of the institute, in plastic tubs (from 200 to 400 liters), covered with a mosquito net that allowed natural day-night regime. Plastic strips were provided as an imitation of underwater vegetation, on which the females laid their eggs. Eggs were collected every morning and moved to Petri dishes at the controlled experimental conditions. The embryos were kept in the laboratory at a temperature of 20°C. Photographs and timelapse recordings of developing embryos were taken every day at the same time. Compared to already published staging tables for newts and based on the appearance of certain morphological structures, such as gills, extremities, balancers, etc., we distinguished 37 different stages of normal embryonic development of *T. ivanbureshi*. Still, differences in external morphology due to the balanced lethal chromosome 1 syndrome need further research.