The 21st European Congress of Herpetology

Belgrade, Serbia 5th-9th September 2022

Program & Book of Abstracts

Belgrade 2022

Institute for Biological Research “Siniša Stanković”
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Poster presentation

Life history changes observed over 17 years in a Common Toad population from Serbia

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One long-term studied local population of *Bufo bufo* situated in the outskirts of southeastern Belgrade (Serbia) was assessed for changes in body size and age over a 17 years period, at different moments: A (2005: n=47), and B (2013-2014: n=74) for females, and A (2005: n=94), B (2013-2014: n=151) and C (2020-2021; n=302) for males. The snout-vent length of the females did not change over time (Mann Whitney U: $Z=-0.89$; $p>0.05$), but their body mass was higher in moment B (Mann Whitney U: $Z=-4.7$; $p<0.05$). The snout-vent length of the males increased over the study period (Kruskal-Wallis: Chi-sq=26.82; $p<0.05$), but their body mass remained similar (Kruskal-Wallis: Chi-sq=26.82; $p>0.05$). We observed a sexual dimorphism, females being larger than males (SD =1.31, Mann Whitney U: $Z=-16.08$; $p<0.05$). The median age increased over time in both females (moment A - 4 years old; moment B - 5 years old; Mann Whitney U; $Z=-6.97$; $p<0.05$), and males (moment A - 4 years old, B - 5 years old, C - 5 years old, Kruskal-Wallis: Chi-sq=40.68; $p<0.05$). Age of sexual maturity (i.e., minimum age observed) remained similar over the study period in both females (3 years old) and males (2 years old). Longevity (i.e., maximum age observed) increased over the study period, from 6 to 7 years old in females, and from 6 to 9 years old in males. We revealed positive changes in both body size and age of the studied population over a 17-years period of monitoring. Thus, our study provides a baseline that will help monitor and quantify the impact of habitat changes that were only recently observed in the area (i.e., deforestation, since 2019).