



XX European Congress  
of Herpetology  
Milan, 2-6 September 2019

# PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS



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**Herp photos:**

Mattia Falaschi, G. Francesco Ficetola, Andrea Melotto, Daisy Pensotti

Please cite this volume as:

Ficetola, G. F., R. Sacchi, S. Scali, R. Manenti, A. Coladonato, A. Melotto, M. Falaschi, E. Razzetti, M. Mangiacotti, S. Canessa, A. Villa, C. Corti, I. van Riemsdijk, B. Wielstra, J. D. Ludwigs, G. Montinaro, J. Crnobrnja-Isailović, M. Denoël, A. Kaliontzopoulou, D. Cogalniceanu, J. Vörös, P. Lymberakis, M. Zuffi, and M. Sannolo, editors. 2019. XX European Congress of Herpetology, Milan, 2-6 September 2019. Program and Abstracts. S.E.H., Milano.

ISBN: 979-12-200-5284-9

**REPRODUCTIVE POTENTIALS OF TWO *Triturus* SPECIES FROM THEIR HYBRID ZONE**

TIJANA VUČIĆ

Faculty of Biology University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia  
Institute for Biological Research “Siniša Stanković” University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

SONJA NIKOLIĆ

Faculty of Biology University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

JOVANA JOVANOVIĆ

Faculty of Biology University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

ANA IVANOVIĆ

Faculty of Biology University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

MILENA CVIJANOVIĆ

Institute for Biological Research “Siniša Stanković” University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

We explored some of the life history traits of *Triturus ivanbureschi* and *T. macedonicus*. These two species hybridize and form a large introgressive zone in central Balkan Peninsula which follows the specific species displacement scenario: *Triturus macedonicus* widens its range and transects the range of *T. ivanbureschi*. One of the important questions is whether, in the hybrid zone, one species has advantage over the other in reproduction or survival. During three consecutive years, we compared reproductive potentials of the two species in common garden experiments. The females of both species were introduced both to conspecific males and males of the other species. We monitored their reproductive success: proportions of egg-laying females, the total number of deposited eggs, and dynamics and duration of oviposition. Our results indicate that fecundity is largely influenced by environmental factors as well as females' affinities towards males, but specific differences in reproductive potential between the species were not found.