*TUR2021 Abstract Volume - NATURA 111 (1): X-Y, 2021*

**ABSTRACT TEMPLATE**

**Microhabitat selection of the Western green lizard *Lacerta bilineata***

Massimiliano Luppi1\*, Augusto Gentili1, Giuseppe Bogliani2

This model of development has led to the reduction of natural areas and especially ecotonal areas and hedgerows that may act as wildlife habitat and ecological corridors between natural and semi-natural areas. Habitat fragmentation is one of the biggest problems for the conservation of biodiversity, especially for animal groups such as reptiles, which have reduced mobility (Rubio & Carrascal, 1994).

The Western green lizard (*Lacerta bilineata*) is a large lizard (adult total length: 30-45 cm) that occupies the Northern part of the Iberian Peninsula, France, Switzerland, West Germany and Italy (Elbing *et al*., 1997; Corti & Lo Cascio, 2002; Schiavo & Venchi, 2006). It lives in open habitats and is widespread in the uncultivated edges of woods and fields, along irrigation channels and roads (Barbieri & Gentilli, 2002; Schiavo & Venchi, 2006; Meek, 2014; Pernat *et al*., 2017).

*Lacerta bilineata* appeared to be still well distributed in the lowland areas of Northern Italy until a few decades ago, when it was abundant (Scali & Schiavo, 2004; Schiavo & Venchi, 2006). In recent years, however, the status of the species has become quite different because of the homogenization of the countryside, intensive cultivation and the destruction of hedgerows. In addition, the use of pesticides has greatly reduced insect abundance and thus its primary source of food. The Western green lizard is now locally threatened and the conversion of traditional agricultural habitats to intensive methods of farming is causing local population declines (Scali & Schiavo, 2004).

1 Via Pionnio 38, 27022 Casorate Primo (PV), Italia.

2 Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra e dell’Ambiente, Università degli Studi di Pavia, Via Ferrata 9, 27100 Pavia, Italia.

E-mail: augusto@worldwinepassion.it, giuseppe.bogliani@unipv.it

\* Corresponding author: massimiliano.luppi85@gmail.com

© 2020 Massimiliano Luppi, Augusto Gentilli,

Giuseppe Bogliani

The Western green lizard is now locally threatened and the conversion of traditional agricultural habitats to intensive methods of farming is causing local population declines (Scali & Schiavo, 2004; Schiavo & Venchi, 2006). Moreover, the requirements of this species coincide with those of several other species typical of ecotones and, therefore, the Western green lizard might serve as an “umbrella species” for many other taxa, playing a key role in protecting these sensitive areas of transition. The species is listed on appendix II (strictly protected fauna species) of the Bern Convention (Council of Europe, 1979) as *L. viridis* and is considered of least concern (LC; population trend: decreasing) in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Pérez-Mellado *et al.*, 2009). In Europe an important legal instrument of conservation is the EU Habitats Directive (Council of Europe, 1992); *L. bilineta* (as *L. viridis*) is inserted in Annex IV (species in need of strict protection). To ensure a favourable conservation status, Member States shall take the required measures to establish a system of strict protection, prohibiting all forms of deliberate disturbance, capture or killing of specimens of these species in the wild and avoiding deterioration.

Fig.1 - Location of study area.

Fig. 2 - Fluorite (Photo P. Pallino).

This model of development has led to the reduction of natural areas and especially ecotonal areas and hedgerows that may act as wildlife habitat and ecological corridors between natural and semi-natural areas. Habitat fragmentation is one of the biggest problems for the conservation of biodiversity, especially for animal groups such as reptiles, which have reduced mobility (Rubio & Carrascal, 1994).

The Western green lizard (*Lacerta bilineata*) is a large lizard (adult total length: 30-45 cm) that occupies the Northern part of the Iberian Peninsula, France, Switzerland, West Germany and Italy (Elbing *et al*., 1997; Corti & Lo Cascio, 2002; Schiavo & Venchi, 2006). It lives in open habitats and is widespread in the uncultivated edges of woods and fields, along irrigation channels and roads (Barbieri & Gentilli, 2002; Schiavo & Venchi, 2006; Meek, 2014; Pernat *et al*., 2017). This model of development has led to the reduction of natural areas and especially ecotonal areas and hedgerows that may act as wildlife habitat and ecological corridors between natural and semi-natural areas. Habitat groups such as reptiles, which have reduced mobility (Rubio & Carrascal, 1994).

The Western green lizard (*Lacerta bilineata*) is a large lizard (adult total length: 30-45 cm) that occupies the Northern part of the Iberian Peninsula, France, Switzerland, West Germany and Italy (Elbing *et al*., 1997. It lives in open habitats and is widespread in the uncultivated edges of woods and fields, Flowering plants. Dicotyledons. Magnoliid, Hamamelid and Caryophyllid families. along irrigation channels and roads (Barbieri & Gentilli, 2002; Schiavo & Venchi, 2006; Meek, 2014; Pernat *et al*., 2017).

**REFERENCES**

Biancardi C.M., Rigo V., Azzoli S. & Gnoli C., 2014 – Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*) habitat and sett site selection in the northern Apennines. *Natural History Sciences*, Milano, 1 (1): 41-48. <doi: 10.4081/nhs.2014.56>

Brandbyge J., 1993 – Polygonaceae. In: The families and genera of vascular plants. Flowering plants. Dicotyledons. Magnoliid, Hamamelid and Caryophyllid families. Kubitzki K., Rohwer J. G. & Bittrich V. (eds.). *Springer*, Berlin, 2: 531-544.