

mintofauna de *Podarcis hispanica* (Steindachner, 1870) y *Podarcis bocagei* (Seoane, 1884) (Reptilia: lacertidae) en el cuadrante noroccidental de la Península Ibérica. *Revisita Ibérica de Parasitología*, 49: 127-135.

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First case of predation in *Pleurodeles poireti* (Gervais, 1835)

Daniel Escoriza¹ & Jihène Ben Hassine²

¹ Institut Català de la Salut. Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 587-589. 08004 Barcelona. Spain. C.e: daniel_escoriza@hotmail.com

² Department of Biology. University of Tunis-El Manar. Campus Universitaire Farhat Hached. 2092 Tunis. Tunisia.

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RESUMEN: Se describe una observación de depredación de *Pleurodeles poireti* por *Natrix maura* en el nordeste de Argelia. Este caso es el primer caso conocido de depredación en este urodelo poco conocido, endémico de la península de Edough.

The Edough Newt *Pleurodeles poireti* is a microendemic urodele, occurring in a small region of north-eastern Algeria (Edough Peninsula; Carranza & Wade, 2004). Until recently it was a very little known species, but new studies revealed its distributional range, population status and the factors that influence its habitat use (Samraoui et al., 2012; Ben Hassine et al., 2016). Like other species of the genus, *Pleurodeles poireti* breeds mainly in temporary ponds in low elevations and plains, where its larvae coexist with those of other amphibians (mainly *Discoglossus pictus* and *Hyla me-*

ridionalis; Ben Hassine et al., 2016). During the surveys of the aquatic habitats occupied by *P. poireti* we also observed three species of semi-aquatic reptiles (*Emys orbicularis*, *Mauremys leprosa* and *Natrix maura*). We also found *Natrix astreptophora* in the Edough region (at Seraïdi), but not in the aquatic habitats used by *P. poireti*. All these reptiles are potential predators of amphibian larvae (Salvador, 1998), but we only observed predation in a single case.

In April 2016, in the locality of Chetaïbi (wilaya of Annaba, Figure 1) we found in a tem-

Figure 1: Map of the study region (north-eastern Algeria). The red dot indicates where the observation was conducted.

Figura 1: Mapa de la región de estudio (nordeste de Argelia). El punto rojo señala dónde se realizó la observación.

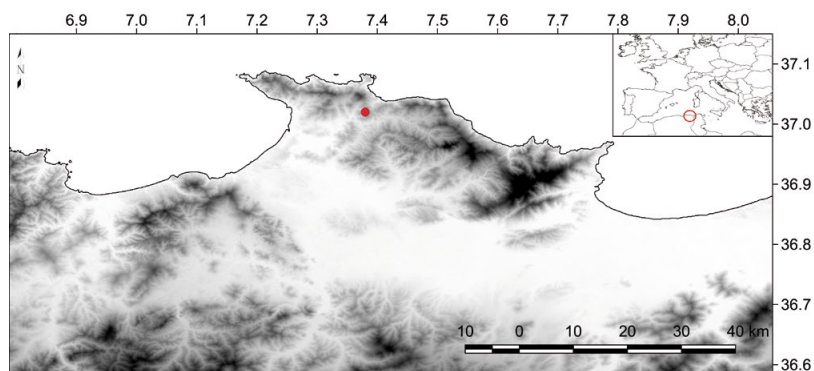




Figure 2: *Natrix maura* specimen along with a regurgitated larva of *Pleurodeles poireti*.

Figura 2: Especímen de *Natrix maura* junto con una larva recién regurgitada de *Pleurodeles poireti*.

porary pond *P. poireti* larvae in an advanced stage of development and two adult specimens of *N. maura*. One of the specimens of *N. maura*, when captured, regurgitated a premetamorphic larva of *P. poireti* of 48 mm in length (Figure 2).

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Parásitos del gallipato (*Pleurodeles waltl*) en la provincia de Castellón

Vicente Roca

Departament de Zoologia, Facultat de Ciències Biològiques. Universitat de València. Cl. Dr. Moliner, 50. 46100 Burjassot. España.
C.e.: vicente.roca@uv.es

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El gallipato, *Pleurodeles waltl* Michahelles, 1830 es un anfibio urodelo de notable tamaño (Salvador, 2014) que se distribuye por los dos

This would be the first described case of predation in *P. poireti*. *Natrix maura* is a snake widely distributed in the Maghreb and abundant in the north of Algeria (Escoriza & Ben Hassine, 2017). This natricine also preys on other urodeles in the north-west African region (*Salamandra algina*; Sánchez-Vialas *et al.*, 2016). The presence of *N. maura* and other predators could have a predatory effect on the populations of *P. poireti*, which occupies a very limited geographical area. This effect is particularly evident in the surroundings of the city of Annaba, where the abundant presence of synanthropic predators (e.g., *Gambusia holbrooki*, *Bubulcus ibis*, *Ciconia ciconia*) together with the degradation of habitats could explain its absence in apparently adequate habitats and the recent extinction of some populations (Samraoui *et al.*, 2012).

tercios meridionales de la península ibérica con un límite norte irregular (Montori *et al.*, 2002). En la zona Este peninsular, particularmente en