bución y conservación. Consejería de Agricultura y Medio Ambiente. Sevilla.

Díaz-Paniagua, C. (Coord.). 1999. Parte I: Biología y dinámica de poblaciones. *In*: Díaz-Paniagua, C. y Mellado, J. "*Estudio de las poblaciones de camaleón común (*Chamaeleo chamaeleon*) en Andalucía. Bases para el manejo y conservación de la especie*. Informe final". Informe inédito Junta de Andalucía. Consejería de Medio Ambiente. Sevilla.

Díaz-Paniagua, C. 2007. Effect of cold temperature on the length of incubation of *Chamaeleo chamaeleon*. *Amphibia-Reptilia*, 28: 387-392.

Díaz-Paniagua, C. & Cuadrado, M. 2003. Influence of incubation conditions on hatching success, embryo development and hatchling phenotype of common chameleon (*Chamaeleo chamaeleon*) eggs. *Amphibia-Reptilia*, 24: 429-440. DOI:10.1163/156853803322763891

Duarte, J., Farfán, M.A. & Vargas, J.M. 2011. Área de distribución de *Chamaeleo chamaeleon* en la costa de Estepona (W Málaga). *Boletín de la Asociación Herpetológica Española*, 22: 112-116.

Fernández, F. 1989. Comportamiento reproductor del camaleón común (*Chamaeleo chamaeleon* L.) en el sur de España. *Doñana, Acta Vertebrata*, 16: 5-13.

Fernández-Cardenete, J.R., Luzón-Ortega, J.M., Pérez-Contreras, J. & Tierno de Figueroa, J.M. 2000. Revisión de la distribución y conservación de los anfibios y reptiles en la provincia de Granada (España). *Zoologica Baetica*, 11: 77-104.

González de la Vega, J.P. 1988. *Anfibios y reptiles de la provincia de Huelva*. Ertisa, Huelva.

Hódar, J.A., Pleguezuelos, J.M. & Poveda, J.C. 2000. Habitat selection of the common chameleon (*Chamaeleo chamaeleon*) (L.) in an area under development in southern Spain: implications for conservation. *Biological Conservation*, 94: 63-68.

Marco, A., Conejo, A., Almagro, F. De Vries, W., Valle, T. & Díaz-Paniagua, C. 2004. *Estudios experimentales sobre selección de lugar de nidificación y ovoposición del camaleón común y tres lacértidos ibéricos*.102. *In*: Libro de resúmenes del VIII Congreso Luso-Español (XII Congreso Español) de Herpetología. Málaga.

Mellado, J., Jiménez, L., Gómez, J. & Sanjuán, M. 2001. *El camaleón en Andalucía. Distribución actual y amenazas para su supervivencia*. Fundación Alcalde Zoilo-Ruíz Mateos. Col. Rabeta Ruta, 6. Rota.

Pleguezuelos, J.M., Márquez, R & Lizana, M. (eds.). 2002. *Atlas y Libro Rojo de los Anfibios y Reptiles de España*. Dirección General de Conservación de la Naturaleza-Asociación Herpetológica Española (2ª impresión). Madrid.

Tutiempo. 2014. <http://www.tutiempo.net/clima/Malaga_Aeropuerto/2008/84820.htm> [Consulta: 26 febrero 2014].

Yus, R., Gámez, J.L. & Torres, M.A. 2006. *Biología y conservación del camaleón común*. Ayuntamiento de Velez-Málaga. Málaga.

First record of a tunnel breeding population of *Pleurodeles waltl* and two other records of Iberian cave dwelling urodeles

David Herrero & Arlo Hinckley

Cl. Embajadores, 161. 3º C. 28045 Madrid. C.e.:cuanmida@hotmail.com

Fecha de aceptación: 7 de abril de 2014.
Key words: amphibian, caudata, cavernicole, tunnel, *Pleurodeles, Salamandra*.

Resumen: Los anfibios pueden utilizar cuevas y otros hábitats subterráneos como refugios por su características térmicas, para evitar la depredación, como lugares de alimentación y como sitios de reproducción. Algunos urodelos son troglobios (especies cavernícolas obligadas, incapaces de sobrevivir en el exterior, fuera de ambientes de poca luz) restringidos a los hábitats cavernícolas y muestran características troglomórficas, como ojos degenerados y despigmentación. Otros anfibios utilizan las cuevas para completar alguna etapa de su ciclo de vida y pueden o no mostrar hasta cierto punto caracteres de especies troglomórficas. Muchos anfibios europeos se han encontrado ocasionalmente o regularmente dentro de las cuevas durante parte de su ciclo de vida. Este artículo constata dos nuevas especies de urodelos cavernícolas: *Pleurodeles waltl* y *Lissotriton boscai*, y confirma nuevamente el uso de cuevas para reproducirse por un tercer urodelo (*Salamandra salamandra*). Para acabar, confirma la importancia de túneles abandonados para los anfibios, aportando nuevos datos sobre su ecología en estos hábitats.

Caves and other subterranean habitats contain a biodiversity that has long intrigued biologists, such as Darwin and Lamarck. Often limited in light, these places have revealed a great number of diverse and unique species. The occurrence of amphibians in caves and associated subterranean habitats is not novel. Amphibians can use caves and other subterranean habitats for thermal refugia, to avoid predation, as feeding habitats and as breeding sites. A number of salamanders are troglobitic (obligate cavernicole species unable to survive outside) restricted to cave habitats and exhibiting special characters adapted to these environments, such as degenerated eyes and depigmentation (Hoffmann, 2002). Other amphibians, majority, use caves to complete some aspect of their life cycles and may or may not exhibit some level of troglomorphy. Anurans are occasionally observed in subterranean habitats, but no species are known to be obligate cavernicoles.

In the Palearctic region, amphibians are relatively common in subterranean habitats. However, only one species is an obligate cavernicola (*Proteus anguinus*) (Rosa & Penado, 2013). Despite this, many European amphibian species have been occasionally or regularly found inside caves during part of their life cycles including: *Salamandra salamandra*, *Triturus marmoratus*, *Discoglossus pictus*, *Pelodytes punctatus*, *Bufo spinosus* and *Bufo calamita* in Spain (Giménez-Lopéz & Guarner Deu, 1982); *Chioglossa lusitanica* in Portugal (Gilbert & Malkmus, 1989); *Pelophylax ridibundus*, *Bufo viridis* and *Bombina bombina* in the Republic of Moldova (Andreev *et al.*,1997); *S. salamandra*, *Triturus vulgaris*, *Triturus cristatus*, *Bufo bufo*, *B. viridis*, *Hyla arborea*, *Rana temporaria*, *Rana dalmatina* in Slovakia (Uhrin & Lesinsky, 1997); *R. temporaria* in Slovenia (Poboljsaj *et al.*, 1997); *B. bufo* has been reported to be found in caves also in Greece and Italy (Boudou *et al.*, 1977; Bologna, 1982). Lanza (1983) reports *Euproctus platycephalus*, *S. salamandra*, *Salamandrina terdigitata*, and all the Italian newts belonging to the genus *Triturus*, *P. punctatus*, *B. bufo*, *Hyla intermedia* and *Rana italica* (Dolce & Bressi, 1998).

This report ads two new species to the upper list of amphibian species found inside caves: *Pleurodeles waltl* and *Lissotriton boscai*, and states again the use of caves to breed by *S. salamandra*. All of them were found during a bat survey made in January 2014 in the municipalities of Villanueva de San Carlos, Calzada de Calatrava, Mestanza and San Lorenzo de Calatrava (Ciudad Real, Spain).

The observation area consists of at least five railroad tunnels, currently unused and located near the river Ojailén, which are declared LIC microreserve because of its importance as refuge for different bat species. The surrounding landscape is quartzite outcrops and slopes of well-preserved Mediterranean forest oaks, cork oaks and gall-oaks with riparian vegetation. The tunnels have different length, the longest, where the larval and metamorphic *S. salamandra* were observed, having about 850m (38º 35' 10,03'' N / 3º 52' 19,10'' W), while the tunnel where the presence of *P. waltl* and *L. boscai* was recorded has around 400m long (38º 31' 49,33'' N / 3º 53' 22,04'' W). The tunnels had a medium temperature around 22ºC while outside the temperature was around 8ºC during the morning and under 0ºC at night.

P. waltl was found in the deepest part of the tunnel in a small stream that poured from a source of water. A large sized (18 and 21 cm) couple was observed (Figure 1a). Both newts were active (at midday) and see-

Figure 1. (a) an adult of *P. waltl*, (b) *P. waltl* larvae, (c) an adult of *L. boscai* and (d) a metamorphic *S. salamandra*.
Figura 1. (a) un adulto de *P. waltl*, (b) larvas de *P. waltl*, (c) adulto de *L. boscai* y (d) un metamórfico de *S. salamandra*.

med to have a good condition. Near them, evidence of breeding was reported when a few larvae were found in the stream. The nearest source of water outside the cave is more than 200 m away. This aquatic environment has neither plants nor stones in the water, so eggs must have been laid in the ground or in some holes at the sides of the tunnel where a female was found. The water was full of bat faeces and the density of sighted invertebrate preys was very low and probably different to that one outside the cave so it would be interesting to verify if the larvae would be able to complete their metamorphosis. The larvae we found had a small size, so we suspect that they may have been born recently but the fact is that we cannot proof the time since they hatched because larvae development can be modified depending on the water temperature (Figure 1b). Outside the cave, reproduction has not been reported in this zone at this time of the year by the authors. We suspect that the advanced breeding period observed inside the cave could be supported by the optimal temperatures found inside (around 22ºC) respect to the 8ºC outside the cave while the survey was made, between 11 a.m. - 13 p.m.

L. boscai was seen in the same spot that *P. waltl*. At least eight individuals were found, being of both sexes (Figure 1c). No presence of breeding was reported in this species. Although it usually lays their eggs in aquatic plants, it is also capable of using leaves and other sinked materials to lay their eggs (Garcia-París, 1985), so further visits along the breeding period should be carried out to verify if cave reproduction exists.

Fire salamander larvae (*S. salamandra*) were seen in all the tunnels and we suspect that these act as important breeding points given the scarce sources of water around this winter. In the largest tunnel, there were high densities of larvae and several metamorphs were found (Figure 1d). Most of these metamorphs were in bad condition, specially the ones found further away from the entry. Bad condition can be related to the low prey availability. Some invertebrates were found in the water but none were found out of it. Anyways, it would be audacious to make any statements with this data, and further studies should be done to know if this tunnel could act as a sink for the population or as an opportunistic breeding point and population source of metamorphs (Manenti *et al.*, 2010).

Abandoned tunnels have shown to be important places for many organisms like bats, amphibians and invertebrates. This new observation highlights again the importance of these environments for amphibians and brings new facts about their ecology in these habitats. But this new information also comes with a lot of questions to resolve in the future, like: Is the presence of the species in this habitat temporal and accidental, or permanent? Can some of the species (like the case of our fire salamander population) depend in some places totally on these bodies of water to breed? Can these habitats function as recruitment points in dry years? Can some of these species (e.g., *L. boscai*) complete the whole cycle in the cave/tunnel?

Aknowledgements: We are grateful to O. de Paz from SECEMU for letting us joining him with his bat surveys and letting us to use his data-logger information. Finally also to C. Vigo, the environmental agent, for leading us trough the tunnels and our reviewers.

References

Andreev, S.P., Vasiliev, A.G. & Loza, M.N. 1997. Vertebrate fauna of the Moldavian underground. 321-323. *In*: Jeannin, P.Y. (ed.), *Proc. XII Intern Congress of Speleology, 10-17 August 1997, La Chaux-de-Fonds. Switzerland*. Speleo Projects. Basel.

Bologna, M.A. 1982. Anfibi cavernicoli con particolare riguardo all especie italiane. *Lavori de lla Società Italiana di Biogeografia*, 7: 451-463.

Bonini L., Razzetti E. & Barbieri F. 1998. Cave breeding of *Bufo bufo* (Linnaeus, 1758) in liguria (north west italy). 59-61. *In*: Miaud, C. & Guyetant, R. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 9th Ordinary General Meeting of the Societas Europaea Herpetologica*. Societas Europaea Herpetologica. Le Bourget du Lac.

Boudou, P., Clerg ue, S.M. & Scouras, C.T. 1977. Biotope hypogé saisonnier d'un bufonide en Eubée (Batracien, Anoure). Présence d'un dolichopode nouveau dans son tube digestif. *Biologica Gallo-Hellenica*, 7: 233-237.

Dolce, S. & Bressi, N. 1998. Osservazioni di anfibi e rettili in grotta. 76. *In*: *Atti 2° Congresso Nazionale della Societas Herpetologica Italica*. Societas Herpetologica Italica. Praia a Mare.

García-París, M. 1985. *Los anfibios de España*. Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca yAlimentación. Madrid.

Gilbert, A. & Malkmus, R. 1989. Laichplatz von *Chioglossa lusitanica* in einem Bergwerkstollen in Portugal. *Herpetofauna*, 11: 6-8.

Giménez-Lopéz, S. & Guarner Deu, N. 1982. Distribución hipogea de *Salamandra salamandra*, Laurenti (Amphibia, Salamandridae) en San Lorenç del Munt y Serra de l'Obac (Terrasa, Provinciade Barcelona, España). *Centro Pirenaico de Biología Experimental*, 13: 43-45.

Hoffmann, L. 2002. Caves and other low-light environments: aerophytic photoautotrophic microorganisms. 171–177. *In*: Bitton, G. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of environmental microbiology*. John Wiley & Sons. New York.

Lanza, B. 1983. *Guide per il riconoscimento dell especie animali dell eacque interne italiane*. 27. Anfibi, Rettili (Amphibia, Reptilia). Collana del Progetto finalizzato "Promozione della qualità dell'ambiente". AQ/1/205, CNR. Roma.

Manenti R., Ficetola, G.F., Alessandro Marieni A,. & De Bernardi, F. 2010. *Salamandra salamandra* occurence in subterranean habitats: preliminary comparison between natural caves and artificial hypogeous springs. 213-219. *In*: *Atti. VIII Congresso Nazionale della Societas Herpetologica Italica*. Ianieri Edizioni. Pescara.

Poboljsaj, K., Celhar, T., Lesnik, A. & Skaberne, B. 1997. Mass overwintering of the European common frogs (*Rana temporaria* Linnaeus, 1758) in the Karstic Cave VranjaJama in Slovenia, Europe.164. *In*: Rocek, Z. & Hart, S. (eds.), *Herpetology '97: Abstracts of the Third World Congress of Herpetology, 2-10 August 1997*. Third World Congress of Herpetology. Prague.

Rosa G.M. & Penado A. 2013. *Rana iberica* (Boulenger, 1879) goes underground: subterranean habitat usage and new insights on natural history. *Subterranean Biology*, 11: 15–29.

Uhrin, M. & Lesinsky, G. 1997. Mechanism of occurence of amphibians in an underground spaces in Slovakia: preliminary data evaluation. 325-327. *In*: Swiss Speleological Society (ed.), *Proc. XII Congress Speleology, 10-17 August 1997, La Chaux de Fonds, Switzerland, 3*. Speleo Projects. Basel.

Albinism in *Pleurodeles waltl*

Stephen D. Busack[1] & David Donaire[2]

[1] North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences.Raleigh. North Carolina 27601-1029. USA. C.e.: sbusack348@aol.com
[2] Asociación Herpetológica Fretum Gaditanum. Cl. Mar Egeo, 7. 11407 Jerez de la Frontera. Cádiz.

Fecha de aceptación: 15 de abril de 2014.
Key words: albinism, amelanism, *Pleurodeles*.

Resumen: Se describe la observación de diversas larvas y adultos albinos de *Pleurodeles waltl* en varias localidades de la Península Ibérica.

Albinism in *Pleurodeles waltl* is reported infrequently, suggesting that surviving individuals are rare in nature or that the condition itself is rare. While albinism occurs to varying degrees (see Dyrkacz, 1981:Table 1), specific details regarding this anomaly are sometimes not recorded. Three records of complete albinism, however, are available.

One complete albino larva (82 mm total length [TL]) was reported from Santa Marta (Albacete Province; N39.14561/ W2.29331; ~740 masl; 19 April 2006; Villodre *et al*., 2009). First found in a semi-natural, permanent pond without shoreline vegetation, and rediscovered in the same pond two weeks later, this larva died the afternoon of re-discovery. Cause of death was not determined, but high levels of solar radiation and lack of melanin were suspected to be contributing factors.

Complete albinism has also been discovered in heavily-populated southern Jerez de la Frontera, where the species continues to breed in a shallow pond bordered by apartment buildings and highway N-IV (Figure 1; N36.66963 / W6.14593; 17 masl) on former marshland close to the Laguna de Torrox. A larval red-eyed albino female found along with normal larvae in 2011 was brought to the attention of DD in 2013. The specimen, currently under captive conditions, transformed to the adult stage in captivity and continues to survive (DD, Figure 2).

Figure 1. Locality of Jerez de la Frontera.
Figura 1. Localidad de Jerez de la Frontera.

Within western Cádiz Province, larval and adult albino *P. waltl* are also encountered occasionally, and appear to be somewhat widely-distributed in disturbed habitat. On 11 May 1969 SDB collected six larvae, all red-eyed albinos (Carnegie Museum 50846, and 50846B-50846F), in urban Puerto de Santa María (approximately N36.57930 /