



ABSTRACTS

ASIAN HERPETOLOGICAL MEETING



es, it would be appropriate to accept the Northern Cyprus population as *Lacerta troodica*, which was suggested previously by Budak and Goecmen (1995).

THE RESULT OF IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR *NAJA KAOUTHIA* ENVENOMING AT CHO RAY HOSPITAL, HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

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Snake bite research and treatment unit and 22A ward. The aim of *Naja kaouthia* antivenom production study is to save the lives of severe envenomed victims. Before 1990, no antivenom was available in Vietnam. Snakebite victims were treated by non-specific method: artificial ventilation and waiting for the patients to recover themselves. The mortality was high (20%). However, this was the tip of the iceberg, many victims were bitten with a large venom and after a bite (from 3 to 6 hours), victims were severely envenomed, paralysis of neuromuscular transmission like Myasthenia Gravis, acute respiratory failure and victims died before reaching hospital, most of the snake bite victims admitted to Cho Ray hospital arrived too late. Now *Naja kaouthia* antivenom with safety and good potency is available. The study on *Naja kaouthia* antivenom produced at Cho Ray Hospital gave the following results: - Group (a): Specific treatment by *Naja kaouthia* antivenom: 46 victims. - Group (b): Non-specific treatment by *Naja kaouthia* antivenom: 09 victims. The results of this study demonstrate that the *Naja kaouthia* antivenom of Cho Ray Hospital has a good safety and potency (with $P < 0,001$). It confirms that specific antivenom treatment is the best way to neutralise the venom bite victims

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL STATUS OF THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIAN ALPIDES

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In alpidic regions of Caucasus and Central Asia most representative lists of species are from territories which were not touched by Pleistocene glaciation, whereas fauna's originality and level of endemism firstly are connected with Pleistocene orogenesis and glaciation. In this connection for the whole territory of Alps-Himalayas System the processes of mountain speciation of reptiles with formation of polytypic genus or complex of species (*Laudakia*, *Archaeolacerta*, *Lacerta* «*agilis complex*», *Vipera* «*xanthina-complex*», *V. «urzini-complex*», *V. «kuznakovi-complex*», etc.) are characteristic, when separate refugia in mountains acted «by

islands on land» with long isolation and accumulation in them of original characteristics for species.

The richest herpetofauna is from mountain Badkhyz (39 species) and Kopetdag (35 species), for which the lowest level of endemism is known - 2,5 % and 14%. Already in the next Alburz and Hindu Kush Mountains the number of endemic species makes, accordingly, 12 (24%) and 9 (26%). At last, in survived Pleistocene drama event Caucasian Mountains and alpidic Pamirs endemism grows up to 32 (46%) and 9 (32%) species accordingly.

THE BREEDING OF FROGS *RANA RIDIBUNDA* IN UZBEKISTAN

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Sexual glands in frogs *Rana ridibunda* Pall., from Uzbekistan, grow active in September and November, when ovaries grow in weight and the index of testes increases (42,2-76,5% and 2,3-3,4%, respectively). In February and March, the frogs *R. ridibunda* begin breeding which lasts until August. In late March, the first juveniles appear after having completed their metamorphosis, their size reaching 18,5 to 26 mm. Tadpoles of various ages and individuals with their metamorphosis being at the final stage, were encountered in waterbodies until September. In July and August the sexual glands of *R. ridibunda* have a short resting period. The singing of males and females is heard in first half of July, as well as in December and January. An average fecundity of female *R. ridibunda* is 2,512 (1450 to 6016) eggs, which is quite a low index apparently connected with a repeated oviposition. Females and males grow mature at the size of 64 mm and 56 mm, respectively, however, there are individual features in attaining maturity.

THE PRELIMINARY DATA IN VARIABILITY OF BACK COLORATION OF *RANA ARVALIS* NILSSON FROM EXTREME POPULATION IN THE SOUTH-EAST OF UKRAINE

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During the field investigations in 1996-1997, the changeability of the back coloring of *Rana arvalis* Nilsson frogs was gained from the population of the middle flow of the Dnieper (the suburbs of the city of Dnipropetrovsk). In the areas of Ukraine,