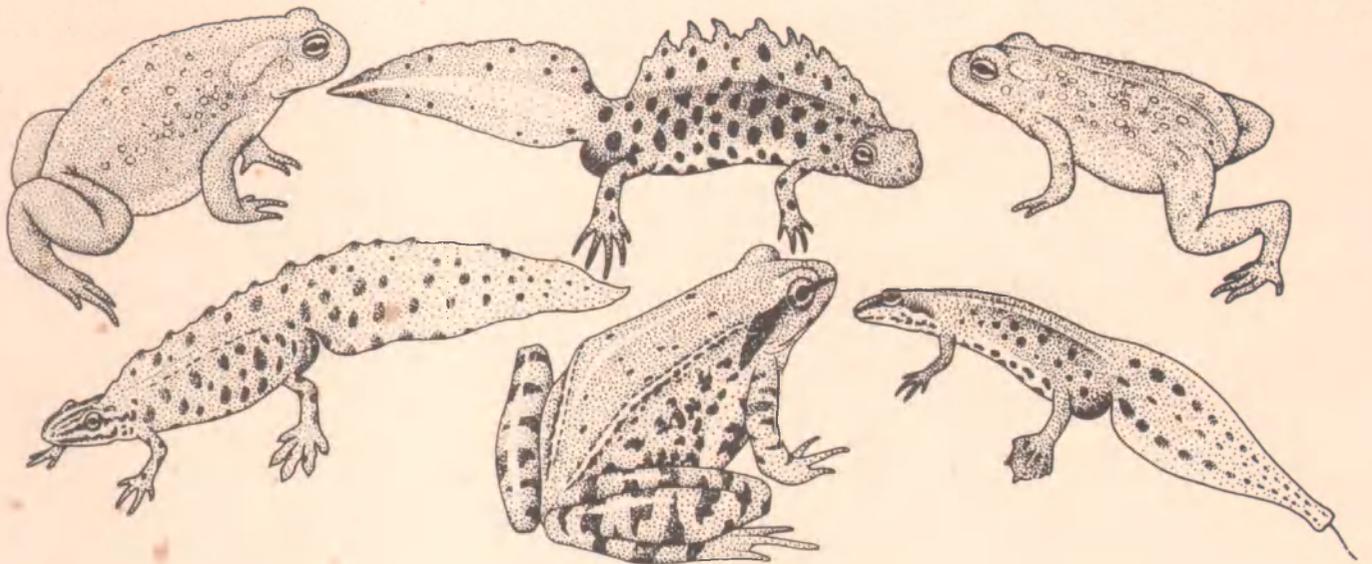


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ABSTRACTS

Tu et al.

POPULATION STUDIES OF THE SEA SNAKE, LATICAUDA SEMIFASCIATA, (REINWART) AT ORCHID ISLAND, TAIWAN.

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Laticauda semifasciata is the dominant species of sea snakes around Orchid Island, a small isolated island located 74 Km from Taiwan. From March 1986 to February 1987, a total of 337 sea snakes were marked and released at 16 sites. Fifty one of them were recaptured, among which 55% was from the same releasing site and 45% was within a distance of 4 km from the releasing site.

The population size of Laticauda semifasciata estimated by the marking experiment, is around three thousands in the whole island during the study period. Also, one hundred and twenty-one specimens from three different areas were collected and were tested electrophoretically for the enzymes in muscle and heart encoded in 8 loci. No genetic variance in enzymes was detected among tested animals from different localities. It is concluded that L. semifasciata of Orchid Island belongs to a homogenous population.

Tuniyev

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ON INDEPENDENCE OF COLCHIS CENTRE OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES SPECIATION. Tuniyev, B.S. (Caucasian State Reserve, K. Marx 8^a, Solchi.)

In literature the Colchis isn't distinguished by authors an independent centre of speciation. It is united either with the Caucasus or with the eastern Mediterranean. We relate *Triturus vittatus ophryticus*, *T. vulgaris lantzi*, *Mertensiella caucasica*, *Bufo verrucosissimus*, *Pelodytes causicus*, *Lacerta agilis grusinica*, *L. dergugini*, *L. saxicola brauneri*, *L. s. dareveskii*, *L. mixta*, *L. parvula*, *L. clarkorum*, *Elaphe longissima*, *Natrix megalcephala*, *Vipera kaznatowi* to the Colchis group of species. The Colchis species are characterised by antiquity (conservation since tertiary period), autochthony, depression (for some species), the existence of north-colchis limestone and south-colchis volcanic centres of formation of narrow endemic forms. As a rule the modern distribution of Colchis species doesn't exceed the bounds of Colchis vegetation and its derivatives. Four main refuges of Colchis herpetofauna are distinguished: Colchidskiy, Belo-labinsky, Kahetinskiy and Borzhomskiy. Their existence is defined by natural factors of high order - these are the areas with faintly changed climatic conditions characterized by modern crossing of January -3°C isotherm and 800mm isohyet.