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Abstract Book
Chemoreceptive predator recognition in three Lacertid species

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Lacertids are high chemoreceptive lizards. They use chemoreception for a wide range of behaviours, including predator recognition. We studied the chemoreceptive predator recognition in three species, Podarcis sicula, Podarcis filigera and Lacerta bedriagae. Two of these species, namely P. sicula and P. filigera, are sympatric with Coluber viridiflavus, L. bedriagae is allopatric with this snake. C. viridiflavus is a predator of lizards. We used chemicals of a non-sauropsid chemical, Natrix natrix or a control scent. First, we tested the ability of the lizards to identify the scent of C. viridiflavus as that of a predator. Our results show that all species of lizards identify this scent (higher tongue-flick rate) as being dangerous. They also show that while P. sicula and P. filigera can distinguish between the scent of C. viridiflavus and of N. natrix, L. bedriagae apparently does not have this ability. In a second part we also investigated the effect of the scent of C. viridiflavus on the lizards' microhabitat choice and foraging behaviour. The results of these tests show that the species have different preferences concerning microhabitats, that these preferences change when confronted with the scent of C. viridiflavus and that they actively avoid substrates labelled with this scent. In the presence of snake chemicals, lizards curtailed the duration of several components of their foraging behaviour.

Biodiversity resources in Belgium: the database BIODIV

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Belgium, like many other countries, has ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). As part of its obligations it is making an inventory of the expertise in biological diversity present in Belgium. The database BIODIV is an interactive website on the Internet (http://www.bfnv.vlaanderen.be/BIODIV).

BIODIV contains an extensive list of biodiversity research items done by Belgian researchers or in Belgium. It also offers an overview of biological collections and databases conserved or kept in Belgium. Events related to biodiversity, such as symposia, congresses, important press releases, ... in Belgium and its surroundings are announced. A bibliography of Belgian standard literature on biodiversity is offered.

BIODIV contains information on biodiversity research and conservation, ranging from the genome to infraspecific diversity, species diversity, populations, biomes and the biome level. It is also a guide to Belgian biological laboratories, research institutions, zoos, botanical gardens, museums, nature education centres, associations, Journals, independent experts, ... and their eventual websites.

To select research items and collections these different search keys are accessible: taxonomy, geography and miscellaneous - separately or in combination. Databases present on the Internet can be consulted on-line from BIODIV.

Belgian users have standard forms at their disposal on the web to add or modify any information on themselves or on their biodiversity related activities. At this point the database contains information on some 120 institutions and 500 subdivisions, 700 people and 1000 research lines.