

6<sup>th</sup> Symposium on the Lacertids of the Mediterranean Basin – 23-27 June, 2008 – Lesvos, Greece  
University of the Aegean – Societas Hellenica Herpetologica



## 6<sup>th</sup> Symposium on the Lacertids of the Mediterranean Basin

### First Circular

#### Invitation

With pleasure we announce that the 6<sup>th</sup> Symposium on the Lacertids of the Mediterranean Basin will be held in 2007, at Molyvos, Lesvos Island, Greece. The Symposium is organized and sponsored by the University of the Aegean, the Prefectural Authority of Lesvos and the *Societas Hellenica Herpetologica*. The organizers look forward to welcoming you in Lesvos and hope that you will enjoy your stay in Molyvos, the ancient *Mithymna*, one of the most impressive cities in Greece.

#### Background

The Symposium on the Lacertids of the Mediterranean Basin aims to bring together herpetologists from all around the world who are active on the field of the study of Lacertids. The relaxed and friendly atmosphere of these congresses provides an excellent opportunity to hear the latest developments in various fields of herpetology, to share research experience and expertise, and to develop new and closer contacts with colleagues from different countries. Following the successful congresses in Lesvos (1992), Faro (1995), Cres (1999), Menorca (2001) and Lipari (2004) it is once more the turn of Lesvos to host this exciting event.

#### Language

The official language of the congress will be English.

#### Location and Dates

The Symposium will take place from 23rd to 27th June 2008, in the city of Molyvos (Lesvos), in the Congress Hall of Mithymna Municipality.

## Scientific Program

The Symposium will focus on various aspects of research carried out on Mediterranean Lacertids. However, eminent contributions from other zoogeographical regions will also be welcomed. The Symposium will include plenary lectures, regular sessions, workshops and poster sessions. Suggestions for topics of sessions and workshops are encouraged. The final program will be the responsibility of the International Scientific Committee.

Two outstanding scientists are invited to give a plenary lecture:

Jonathan Losos (Harvard University, USA)

Erik Svensson (Lund University, Sweden)

Furthermore a selection of 20 papers will be published in a peer-reviewed journal. The Editorial Board of the journal will make the selection.

## A short history of the city

The first name of the town was *Mithymna* keeping a pre-Hellenic origin. Mithymna was the second most powerful city-nation of the island, involved in an endless competition with Mytilini. The town was a loyal ally of the Athenians and thanks to their help manages to survive. At 167 B.C. the Roman general Lucullus conquered the city with the rest of the island. During Byzantine era Mithymna belonged to Province of Islands of the Empire while after the capture of Constantinople by the Franks (1204) the whole island was ceded to the Genoa's Gattelusis when Francesco Gattelusi married the daughter of the Byzantine Emperor John Palaiologos. The name of the city changed to Molyvos (meaning *lead* after the belief of the conquerors that the roofs of the town were made by this material) and the castle built by the Byzantines was renovated. Achilles conquered the original castle, which this one replaced, during the Trojan War. There are still ancient ruins scattered around the town including impressive polygonal walls. Ottomans succeeded Gattelusis offering many privileges to Molyvos. Admiral Kountouriotis, first President of the Hellenic Republic, liberated the island of Lesvos at November the 8th 1912.

The town of Molyvos itself is built of stone houses and shops, which surround the castle and follow the coast to one of the most beautiful harbours in Greece. It is a working fishing harbor and by sitting in one of the traditional cafes you will have the opportunity to enjoy the sea commerce as fishermen unload boxes of sardines, *lakerda* (a kind of tuna) and many other types of fish to waiting pick-up trucks which race them to markets all around the island.

## Weather

The local weather in late June is warm (25-33°C), ideal for swimming in the limpid waters of Molyvos. Don't forget to bring your swimsuit since many beaches are in walking distance from the Congress venue.

## **Travel**

There are 6 domestic flights daily to Lesvos Airport *Odysseas Elytis* from Athens International Airport (appr. duration 35 min) carried out by two airlines companies (Olympic Airways and Aegean Airlines). Note that there is a considerable discount (up to 50%) for the early booking of air-tickets. Alternatively various boat types cover by sea the distance from Greece's main Port Piraeus to Mytilini (capital city of Lesvos) Port. The duration of the trip, depending the type of boat, varying from 6 to 13 hours. A bus service will be provided directly from Mytilini (both Airport and Port) to the Congress venue in Molyvos (70 km away). Car rentals are present in Mytilini and Molyvos, but it is recommendable to make reservations well in advance. Traveling by car is more expensive, but it's the best way to discover the beautiful countryside of Lesvos.

## **Accommodation**

Hotel prices in Molyvos are relatively cheap if compared to the prices in Athens and the main touristic islands of Greece (Mykonos, Santorini, Rhodes etc). Hence \*\*\*\* hotels are available from € 60 single room to € 140 double room, \*\*\* from € 35 single room to € 85 double room and \* from € 30 single room to 70 double room. However you can reserve apartments or rent rooms in local houses (from € 30 single room to € 60 double room) while for nature lovers there is always the possibility of Molyvos camping (from € 10, but bring your own tent!).

For any reservation or question please communicate with the Variamis Travel Agency, authorized from the Symposium for travel and accommodation support.

e-mail: [variamis@otenet.gr](mailto:variamis@otenet.gr)

website: [www.variamis-travel.gr](http://www.variamis-travel.gr)

## **Social Events**

The opening ceremony will be organized in a special site inside the beautiful city of Molyvos. Welcome Party (offered) and Gala Dinner (offered) will be provided.

Congress Tour will be arranged on Wednesday 25th in the unique Fossil Forest of Sigri and in the coastal city of Eressos, birthplace of the ancient poet Sappho.

Depending the participation of accompanying persons a full social program will be organized with excursion in natural attractions and visits to the many interesting cultural sites of Lesvos. It worth to mention the many scenic villages, the Byzantine monasteries and churches dispersed in all the island, the two Archaeological Museums of Mytilini, the Modern Art Museum of Teriade Collection (including work by Picasso, Miro, Chagall, Giacometti, Matisse and Brack) and the folk painter Theofilos Museum.

### **Registration Fee**

Believing that scientific meetings fees should be as low as possible we tried to keep registration reduced. Hence the inscription to the Symposium will cost 90 Euros whereas student registration will be 40 Euros. Accompanying person contribution will be 30 Euros.

### **Deadlines**

#### **First Circular:**

February 1, 2007

#### **Suggestions for topics of workshops:**

As soon as possible (no later than September 30, 2007) to pafilis@aegean.gr

#### **Second Circular:**

November 30, 2007

#### **Final Registration and Abstract Submission:**

March 31, 2008

### **Organizers**

Stratis D. Valakos <evalakos@biol.uoa.gr>

Panayiotis Pafilis <pafilis@aegean.gr>

### **Organizing Committee**

Valentin Perez-Mellado <valentin@gugu.usal.es>

Triantaphyllos Akriotis <takr@aegean.gr>

Petros Lymberakis <lyberis@nhmc.uoc.gr>

Panayiota Maragou <p.maragou@wwf.gr>

### **Scientific Committee**

Nick Arnold <enarnoldnhm@hotmail.com>

Wolfgang Böhme <W.Boehme.ZFMK@Uni-Bonn.De>

Massimo Capula <m.capula@comune.roma.it>

Miguel Carretero <carretero@mail.icav.up.pt>

Claudia Corti <claudia.corti@unifi.it>

Raoul Van Damme <rvdamme@uia.ac.be>

James Harris <james@mail.icav.up.pt>

Panayiotis Pafilis <pafilis@aegean.gr>

Valentin Pérez-Mellado <valentin@gugu.usal.es>

Vicente Roca <Vicente.Roca@uv.es>

Stratis Valakos <evalakos@biol.uoa.gr>

Luis Vicente <lmvicente@fc.ul.pt>

### **Plenary lecture speakers**

Jonathan Losos (opening lecture) <jlosos@oeb.harvard.edu>

Erik Svensson <erik.svensson@zoekol.lu.se>