The Lacertids of the Balearic Islands and the recent introduced reptiles

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The arrival to the Balearic Islands of new species proceeding from the Iberian Peninsula and other peri-mediterranean regions supposes a potential threat for the survival of the two endemic lacertids. The accession and rapid expansion of Hemorrhois hippocrepis and Rhinechis scalaris in Ibiza, an island without snakes until a few years ago, might already be affecting the populations of Podarcis pytiusensis. The populations of Podarcis lilfordi on Cabrera and the other islets surrounding Majorca might equally in turn be affected by Podarcis siculus, another lacertid species recently introduced in Mallorca.