

**ECOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE EXTINCTION OF *PODARCIS LILFORDI* IN THE ISLAND OF MENORCA FOR *DAPHNE RODRIGUEZII* (THYMAELAECEAE)**

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Island ecosystems are known to be more vulnerable to any type of disturbance than continental ones. Evidence is accumulating that the disruption of plant-animal mutualisms in islands translates in a low plant reproductive success, sometimes even leading to the extinction of entire populations. In the Balearics, the introduction of carnivorous mammals in the larger islands, Mallorca and Menorca, has been the major cause of the extinction of the endemic lizard, *Podarcis lilfordi*. The extinction of this lacertid, known to act as a major seed disperser for a variety of plant species, has presumably resulted in a dramatic reduction of plant populations. In this work, we show evidence that supports the hypothesis that the populations of *Daphne rodriguezii*, an endemic shrub from Menorca and considered in risk of extinction by the IUCN, are shrinking mainly due to the lack of dispersal. The only population that maintains a high density of individuals (> 300 indiv./ha.) is that found in Colom islet, a small island of c. 40 ha. off the eastern coast of Menorca, where *Podarcis lilfordi* still exists. Preliminary data on seed germination show that seeds defecated by lizards are as viable and germinate at a similar rate as uningested seeds.