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**Influence of vegetation cover on tail break frequencies in**  
***Podarcis muralis***

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Vegetation coverage can have a significant effect on lizard populations, providing them with suitable refuges, making them less apparent to predators, and in turn, lowering the predation pressure. Also, increased body condition can be



expected since food availability is increased in habitats rich in vegetation. Here we examined relation between increase in vegetation coverage and change in frequency of broken tails, tick load and body condition in two consecutive years in one local population of *Podarcis muralis*. As a control group we used neighbouring population with similar predators, habitat, climate conditions, but where vegetation coverage did not change within the same time period. Frequency of broken tails decreased considerably in first population, while in the control one it did not change significantly in males. Body condition increased in females in both populations, but in males only in first one. Tick load remained the same in both populations and years. As exposure to predators is the most important factor influencing incidence of autotomy, we can attribute observed changes to decreased susceptibility to predation attacks.

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