their validity should be verified. A geometric morphometric analysis was conducted to assess the differences in head shape among snakes coming from all the Italian subspecies. Our results confirmed the differences among the four accepted taxa and highlighted a different homogeneous clade from southern Italy and Sicily. Sardinian and Corsican grass snakes showed some affinities and both appeared to be distinctly separated by continental specimens. Further analyses are necessary to understand phylogeographic relations among the taxa and to assess the effect of sexual dimorphism on shape differences.

Keywords. *Natrix natrix*, geometrics morfometrics, systematics, Italy.

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COMUNICAZIONE

Variazione morfometrica di *Podarcis waglerianus* in un sistema microinsulare

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Abstract. The Sicilian wall lizard (*Podarcis waglerianus*) is endemic of Sicily and six circum-sicilian satellite islands. The aim of this work is the analysis of morphometric variation of micro-insular populations of the Stagnone Lagoon Archipelago which is situated along the west coast of Sicily. The analysis includes samples from the three islands where the species is present (Isola Lunga, Santa Maria, La Scola) and two "control" sites: the nearby mainland coast (Marsala) and a disjunct mainland area (Ficuzza), located about 80 km east of the lagoon. 16 morphometric characters were collected and analyzed using descriptive statistics and univariate and multivariate analysis. Results reveal a clear divergence between micro-insular and mainland lizards, which are very similar to each other. The variation in shape seems to follow a pattern seen in other lacertidae, with a decrease in body size in larger islands populations with the presence of predators (S. Maria and Isola Lunga) and a decrease in limb length in smaller island population with the absence of predators (La Scola).

Keywords. Sicilian wall lizard, morphological differentiation, insularity, Sicily.