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# Demography and lifetime growth patterns in viviparous salamanders (genus *Lyciasalamandra*): Living underground attenuates interspecific variation

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## ABSTRACT

The viviparous urodeles *Lyciasalamandra* spp. are restricted to a narrow mountain range of ca. 30 km width along the southern Turkish Mediterranean coast and some adjacent Turkish and Greek islands. All species share a predominantly subterranean life-style in crevices of boulder fields, probably since their speciation about 10 million years ago. In this study we test the hypothesis that similar subterranean environmental conditions attenuates within- and among-species variation of demographic life-history features in four populations of *Lyciasalamandra* from three different taxa (*L. atifi*, *L. billae*, *L. luschani*) and from two altitudinal zones, the eumediterranean (0-400 m) and the supramediterranean (400-1,100 m)

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