

position has been variously accepted or refuted by recent authors. Population from Indonesia were treated as a subspecies of *X. piscator melanzostus* (GRAVENHORST, 1807) in most publications, but also regarded as full species in some. In order to clarify these taxonomical problems, we investigated the morphological variation in the *X. piscator* complex on the basis of about 450 specimens from the whole range of the complex. This survey led to the following results: *Xenochrophis piscator*, *X. flavipunctatus*, *X. asperrimus* and *X. melanzostus* are distinct taxa deserving a specific status. Another cryptic species is living in sympatry with *X. piscator* in northern India, Nepal and Pakistan. The population from Sri Lanka differs from all populations including *X. asperrimus*. All these taxa are easily distinguishable by meristic characters and a combination of characters of their pattern. Several taxa are living sympatrically over large areas. The status of *X. sanctijohannis* requires further research.

**Toads from a blowfly's viewpoint – Phenology
and host preferences of the blowfly *Lucilia bufonivora*
[ORAL PRESENTATION]**

WEDDELING, KLAUS, MONIKA HACHTEL, DANIEL ORTMANN, PETER SCHMIDT
& ULRICH SANDER

During a long-term monitoring project on amphibian populations in an agricultural landscape near Bonn (Germany) predation of common toads *Bufo bufo* by the blowfly *Lucilia bufonivora* was recorded. Infected toads were found in pitfall traps mainly between may and october each year, outside breeding period of toads. Highest infestation rates were recorded during mid summer in July and August. Overall predation rate exceeds 20 % of adult and subadult toads in some years showing high variation between ponds and years. Infestation risk of toads rises with increasing snout vent length of the hosts. Breeding experiments with toad carcasses show high variation in fly maggot density and hatching output of flies. Fly size after hatching shows negative correlation with maggot density, suggesting strong competition of fly maggots within carcasses. Secondary infestations by other fly species were common and sometimes completely rule out recruitment of *L. bufonivora* suggesting low competition ability of this blowfly. In a general view, predation rates of common toads by blowflies show a strong variability in time and space. In some toad populations, infestation by *L. bufonivora* may considerably contribute to summer mortality of common toads.

**Dispersal of *Triturus alpestris* and *T. vulgaris* in agricultural landscapes – comparing
estimates from genetic marker data and mark-recapture analysis
[ORAL PRESENTATION]**

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Dispersal is one key factor for amphibian conservation in agricultural landscapes. During a long-term monitoring project on amphibian populations in an agricultural landscape near Bonn (Germany) we used two different approaches to estimate dispersal of newts between breeding