

Chemical Compounds from Femoral Gland Secretions of Male Iberian Rock Lizards, *Lacerta monticola cyreni*

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In spite of the importance of chemoreception and chemical signals in the social organization of lizards, there are only a few studies examining the chemical composition of secretions of lizards used for scent marking. The secretion of the femoral glands of male Iberian rock lizards (*Lacerta monticola cyreni*) contains 44 lipophilic compounds, including several steroids (mainly cholesterol), and *n*-C₆ to *n*-C₂₂ carboxylic acids, and minor components such as esters of carboxylic acids, alcohols, squalene, and one lactone. These compounds were identified on the basis of mass spectra, obtained by GC-MS. Most lipids were detected in all individuals, although relative proportions of each chemical show a high interindividual variability. This variability might be related to the characteristics or physical and health condition of males and might be the basis of female choice based on chemical cues observed in this lizard species.

Key words: *Lacerta monticola*, Femoral Glands, Fatty Acids, Steroids