

High shelter availability leads to ‘arrogant’ lizards

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Flight initiation distance (FID) and escape distance (ED) are useful tools for the evaluation of antipredator strategies under the context of escape theory. We checked FID and ED in three populations of the lizard *Acanthodactylus schreiberi* from Cyprus (from Akrotiri, Geri and Agros). Adult and juvenile individuals showed similar antipredator strategies despite differences in predator encounter frequency due to their different lifestyles. Antipredator behavior in the field appeared not be affected by predator diversity. The population with lower predator diversity (Akrotiri) exhibited higher FID and ED rates. Shelter accessibility seemed to be the main factor driving antipredator strategies, especially in populations with sparse shelter availability. Where shelters were abundant and predator diversity similar (i.e., Geri and Agros) the lizards exhibited similar FIDs and EDs. Our findings agree with previous work that highlighted the significance of shelter availability for the escape behavior of lizards.