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Editorial note

Tooting my own horn

The most frequent readers might have noticed that, even though I am working with terrestrial reptiles, only one study, indirectly related to this subject, was published in the first number of this journal since I have accepted to be editor-in-chief. And that was because I was previously involved with the work. This is mainly explained by ethical issues; to avoid conflicts of interests. However, in this number, readers will find two of the three publications related to terrestrial reptiles. Two good surprises; both result of the training in herpetology that I have been carrying out as request from several Cabo Verde NGOs working with biodiversity in the country.

The first publication is entitled "*Predation risk of the Critically Endangered Raso lark* Alauda razae *after its translocation to Santa Luzia Island – an artificial bird nest experiment*". The authors used Sherman traps and fake eggs to identify potential predators present in different translocation sites on Santa Luzia, and to assess their impact on nest success. This study shows that the house mouse *Mus musculus* is widespread on Santa Luzia. It also suggests a heavy predatory impact on eggs by a diurnal predator, probably the brown-necked raven *Corvus ruficollis*, in addition to the above mentioned one. The good news is that nesting success rates were similar to the Raso population, where mice are absent, and that adult Raso larks compensate high nest losses by rapid re-laying. Another bright side is that no rats or cats were detected during the sampling period. It is important to highlight that this study was again financed by the SCVZ Desertas Fund grants, thanks to who bought the book on the Natural History of the Desertas Islands.

The second publication is a short note on the "*Biotic representations in the church of Nossa Senhora da Luz, Santiago Island, Cabo Verde"*. This is a unique work merging Architecture with Biology. One carved animal was found in a chapiter of an emblematic church. After the herpetological training, the author identified it as a reptile and tried to explain the reasons of its presence as an architectural element in this work. It only lacked to explain why this can only be seen from the altar.

The third and last publication is a short note that describes, for the first time, the presence of a gecko population on an islet of Sal Island. The authors start noticing the geckos after the above-mentioned training. The note "*First record of* Tarentola *for the Island of Sal, Cabo Verde*" challenges the designation of doubtful record the report of one *Tarentola delalandii* specimen on the island in 1934. Based on the morphological features, those individuals seem different from the endemic species occurring on the neighbouring islands. Thus, a genetic study is needed to check if those belong to a species from other archipelagos, or to one still to be described.

I am glad that, after 16 years working in Cabo Verde, I do not need tooting my own horn, as seedlings are sprouting by themselves in front of my eyes. Thank you all for providing me the opportunity to witness that.

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Editor-in-chief of *Zoologia Caboverdiana*