RELATIONSHIPS OF SCINCID LIZARDS, *PANASPIS* (REPTILIA: SCINCIDAE) FROM SÃO TOMÉ, PRÍNCIPE AND ANNOBON ISLANDS BASED ON MITOCHONDRIAL AND NUCLEAR DNA SEQUENCES

Jesus, J.[1]; Brehm, A.[1] & Harris, D.J.[2]

[1]Centro de Estudos da Macaronésia (CEM), Universiade da Madeira, Penteada, 9000 Funchal, Portugal, jesus@uma.pt
[2]Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos (CIBIO/UP), Instituto de Ciências e Tecnologias Agrárias e Agro-Alimentares (ICETA), Campus Agrário de Vairão, 4484-661 Vila do Conde

Background: Studies among island variation has been fundamental in evolutionary theory. Nonvolant tetrapods groups, such as lizards, become model organisms for the studies of colonization and dispersal patterns. Reconstruction of such events can be assessed with DNA sequence data. São Tomé, Príncipe and Annobon together with Bioko Island are a volcanic chain of islands. The oldest and also the biggest island is Bioko and the youngest is Annobon, also the more distant island. According to the literature, *Panaspis* is a small genus that is represented in these islands by *P. africana* (São Tomé and Príncipe) and *P. annabonensis* (Annobon).

Material & Methods: Partial sequences from three mitochondrial genes (cytochrome b, 12S and 16S) and one nuclear gene (C-mos) were used to estimate the phylogenetic relationships between the populations of the three islands.

Results & Conclusions: The results show a clear and well-supported separation between the islands. The differences between them seem to indicate the existence of 3 different taxa. Colonization events are discussed based on the data.