

Biodiversity and Evolution of the Central Asian and Caucasian vipers (Viperidae)

Initiative: Zwischen Europa und Orient - Mittelasien/Kaukasus im Fokus der Wissenschaft

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Venomous snakes of the family Viperidae are numerous in Central Asia and the Caucasus. It is, however, not clear how many species of vipers exist in the region and how they are distributed. This information is crucial for medical application of antisera against snake bite. The aim of this project is to revive venomous snake research in the Caucasus and Central Asia by applying modern molecular genetic methods. Goals and by-products of this research shall be: (1) elucidating the evolution and phylogeography of viperid snakes in the region; (2) reconstructing species formation processes, both completed and still running; (3) establishing a stable taxonomy of viperid snakes in the area; (4) establishment of an international research network with Turkey and Iran; (5) stimulating further research in the applied fields of toxinology and medical treatment of snake bite.

Projektbeteiligte

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