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Umsiedlung einer Zauneidechsen-Population (*Lacerta agilis*) am Bahnhof Haltern am See (Kreis Recklinghausen, NRW)

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Translocation of a sand lizard population on a railroad property close to Haltern am See (North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany)

In 2013, we translocated individuals from a local sand lizard population from a railroad property to a nearby replacement habitat. The 1.48-ha site was located close to the railway station of „Haltern am See" (district of Recklinghausen, North Rhine-Westphalia). In total, we translocated 72 individuals during 36 trapping sessions. The replacement habitat had been created on abandoned railway tracks at a distance of 500m from the source habitat and was dominated by a dense early successional birch woodland. The replacement habitat had a size of 0.32 ha and was cleared from trees; additionally, bare sand areas, and heaps of stone and sand were created. Throughout a subsequent three-year monitoring study, individual sand lizards were recognized by their characteristic patterns along the back (taken from photographs from previous years). Between 2014 and 2016, sand lizard abundance totaled 99, 65 and 72 individuals, respectively. In the last monitoring year, population size had reached initial density again. The translocated population received substantial immigration from adjacent areas, with only one individual remaining from the initial population in 2016. We hypothesize that predation is a potential reason for the generally low recapture rate, as five carnivore species and common kestrel were found to colonize the replacement habitat and its surroundings.

Key words: Sand lizard, *Lacerta agilis*, translocation, individual recognition, mark-recapture.

Zusammenfassung

Im Jahr 2013 erfolgte auf einer 1,48 ha großen Bahnfläche südlich des Bahnhofes Haltern am See (Kreis Recklinghausen, Nordrhein-Westfalen) die Umsiedlung eines Zauneidechsenbestandes. Insgesamt 72 Tiere wurden bei 36 Begehungen gefangen und in einem Ersatzlebensraum ausgesetzt. Dieser war zuvor in einer Entfernung von 500 m auf stillgelegten Gleisanlagen geschaffen worden, wo sich ein dichter Bir-

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