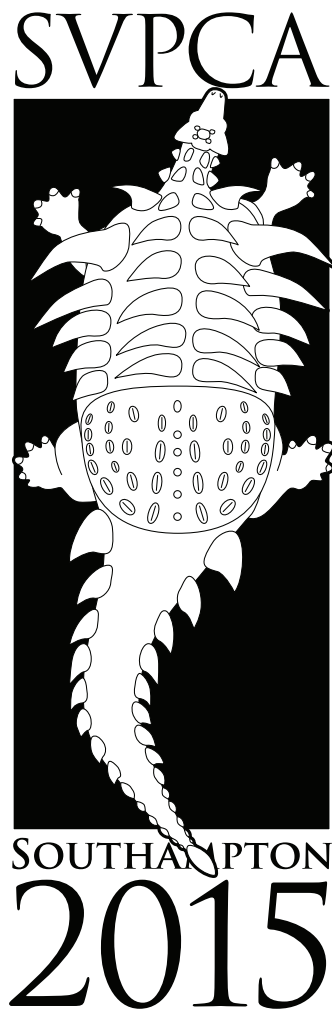


63<sup>RD</sup> SYMPOSIUM FOR VERTEBRATE PALAEOLOGY AND  
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24<sup>TH</sup> SYMPOSIUM OF PALAEOLOGICAL PREPARATION AND  
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## A review of fossil gekkotans from the Neogene and Quaternary of Italy

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Six Italian Neogene and Quaternary localities have yielded fossils of geckos: Gargano "terre rosse", Late Miocene; Moncucco Torinese, latest Miocene; Cava 6 near Orosei, Pleistocene; Valdemino Cave, Middle Pleistocene; K 22, Middle-Late Pleistocene; San Teodoro, Late Pleistocene. Remains comprehend maxillae, frontals, dentaries, indeterminate tooth-bearing bones, vertebrae and humeri.

After a comparative analysis of cranial bones of the four extant species of European gekkotans (*Euleptes europaea*, *Hemidactylus turcicus*, *Mediodactylus kotschy* and *Tarentola mauritanica*), maxillae and frontals turned out to be the most informative among Italian fossil findings, whereas dentaries and tooth-bearing bones are less useful. Such comparative analysis has not been carried out on postcranial skeleton so far.

Using the newly identified diagnostic features, fossils have been referred to *Euleptes* sp. (Gargano), cf. *Euleptes* sp. (Moncucco), *Hemidactylus* cf. *H. turcicus* (Valdemino), *Tarentola mauritanica* (K 22) and Gekkota indet. (San Teodoro). Remains from Cava 6 and a frontal from K 22 have not been studied yet.