

Forum

On the analysis of mark-recapture data: a reply to Henle (2005)

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Henle (2005) criticizes for a second time our analyses of toad mark-recapture data. We still believe that Dr. Henle's arguments are based on misunderstandings of basic issues in mark-recapture methodology. For example, Dr. Henle argues that only data from toads captured at the last capture occasion are available for analysis (p. 13, i.e. bold-faced capture histories in Dr. Henle's table 1). This argument is, like many others, at odds with mark-recapture theory (see Williams et al., 2002, for an excellent overview). All marked animals are informative regardless of whether they are ever recaptured or not.

We stand by our analyses and conclusions in Schmidt and Anholt (1999) and Schmidt et al. (2002; also see Frétey et al., 2004). We find no convincing argument in Henle (2005) nor in Dr. Henle's earlier critique. Further discussion of various ways to deal with temporary emigration and an in-depth assessment of bias can be found in our Statistical Report published in the journal *Ecology* (Schaub et al. 2004).

Last but not least, Dr. Henle seems to associate us with Paul Kammerer, a well-known case of scientific fraud and misconduct. We presume that this comparison was not an intentional attack on our integrity, scientific or otherwise.

References

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Editorial note: The last manuscript written by Klaus Henle and published in *Amphibia-Reptilia*, Vol. 26, No. 1, pp. 7-16 (2005) is a forum paper and has been erroneously presented as a full article.

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