

CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS: 50th ANNUAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM: A YEAR OF CELEBRATION!

In-person and Hybrid Meeting: February 25, 26, 27, and 28, 2025

The Desert Tortoise Council will hold a virtual and in-person meeting at the Palace Station Hotel and Casino, 2411 W. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV. If the situation regarding subvariants of Covid-19 and other potential health issues change, we will be flexible and keep you informed.

Titles and abstracts for sessions or contributed papers and posters are hereby invited. The Council welcomes special sessions, pertinent papers, and posters summarizing years of research, future challenges, past accomplishments, and progress reports on significant topics for *Gopherus agassizii*, *G. morafkai*, *G. evgoodei*, and *G. flavomarginatus*. Papers and posters on the 4 species, desert habitats, restoration research, and other species living in desert ecosystems are welcome, as time permits. Please return the form below with abstract by November 15, 2024. *If necessary, final abstracts can be submitted as late as December 20, 2024; however, the form below must be submitted by November 15, 2024, to ensure participation.*

ABSTRACTS

Content is to be substantive, focused on findings and implications of findings (not methods unless the paper or poster is about techniques). Abstracts for 15-minute papers should be 250 to 300 words (body, not title and addresses) and single-spaced. Abstracts may be longer, especially for featured, invited, and plenary speakers.

Submission: Send a virus-free file by e-mail using Word for Windows or later version for PC. ALL e-mail transmissions must include all the information requested below in the format required, including author's address, phone, and e-mail address. E-mail transmissions must include information on intent to submit by November 15, 2024, with abstract or with the final abstract to arrive by December 20, 2024. Submissions should be sent electronically with the abstract attached in the required format (not pdf). The Program Chair must be informed immediately if a cancellation or substitution is necessary. If submission is not in the required format, it will be returned for modification.

PAPERS

Speakers should be prepared to give professional presentations. Most papers will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals (12 minutes for presentation, three minutes for questions), unless other arrangements are made or if the paper is part of a special panel or session. If the speaker wishes to give a shorter or longer paper, then that information should be noted on the form. Keynote, Plenary, Invited, and Featured Speakers will be allotted additional time and more lengthy abstracts.

POSTER SESSION

Posters will be placed on easels no later than 09:30 a.m. on the first day of the meeting and on the Desert Tortoise Council's website. Authors must be available for questions on a special poster session(s) on a date(s) to be determined. Effective posters need to be carefully edited to avoid using too many words.

Information on the submittal forms must be exact, because the program copy will be prepared from the submitted sheet. If your title and the speaker list are tentative, say so. If you have questions about your paper or need assistance, please contact the Program Chair, Dr. Kristin Berry, at kristin_berry@usgs.gov.

Paper _____ Student Paper _____ Poster _____ (Continued below)

Author(s) and Affiliations(s). Indicate speaker with an asterisk _____

Title of Paper/Poster _____

Address of Speaker _____

Work phone _____ Home phone _____ E-mail: _____

Special requirements (e.g., AV equipment): _____ Time: _____

SUBMIT TO: Dr. Kristin H. Berry, Program Chair, via email: kristin_berry@usgs.gov

REQUIRED FORMAT FOR ABSTRACTS FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS WITH EXAMPLE

Submissions that do not meet the required format described below will be returned to the senders for revision.

Typeface and font: Use only Times New Roman 12-point font.

Spacing: Single space throughout. Do not use multi-spacing.

Paper or Poster: At the top of the page, identify whether paper, student paper, or poster (PAPER, STUDENT PAPER, POSTER)

Student Papers: If the author is submitting a student paper for competition, then place Student Paper in capital letters at the top of the abstract, above the title.

Title: Space down one line and center the title, capitalizing important words; place in bold.

Names of Authors: Skip one line, then list and center names of all authors in italics (include first names or initials). If there is more than one author and more than one affiliation, use a numerical superscript after the name of the author.

Affiliations: Immediately below the authors, write affiliations and addresses, and, at minimum, e-mail address of senior author. Superscripts to identify the relationships between authors and affiliations should be placed after the name of the author and immediately in front of each affiliation and address.

Text of Abstract. Leave a single space and begin the abstract. Italicize all scientific names and statistical notations.

Example:

No Paternal Genetic Integration in Agassiz Desert Tortoises Following Translocation into an Existing Population

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and *Robert C. Fleischer¹*

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Translocations are a tool widely used by wildlife managers, yet their impact is often insufficiently evaluated. Most translocation studies only assess the initial establishment phase, and the majority of long-term persistence studies to date have only tracked female fecundity. Male genetic integration for mitigative translocations have as of yet not been assessed and could greatly undermine the validity of translocation evaluations. To test for successful male integration, we determined genetic paternity of 92 desert tortoise hatchlings (*Gopherus agassizii*), from both resident and translocated females, four years after the initial translocation event and found that all 35 hatchlings with a match in our genotype database were sired by residents. Given that translocated males constitute 46% of the genotyped males found in the home ranges of the females, they produce significantly fewer offspring than resident males in the same area (G-test, p value < 0.0001). This is the first study assessing paternal genetic integration following a translocation of a wild sourced population into a native resident population. We hypothesize that male condition following the translocation, female mate preference for prior residents and competitive exclusion by resident males may contribute to the lower reproductive output of translocated males. We advocate the use of genetic paternity testing in other species to determine the generality of male translocation success across taxa given this unexpected and alarming result.