

**SITE TENURE IN THE MOORISH GECKO
*TARENTOLA MAURITANICA***

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Since very little is known of the spacing patterns and site tenure of nocturnal geckos other than *Gehyra* spp. (Stamps, 1977), I took the opportunity, whilst staying with my son and daughter-in-law, Hugh and Olwen Cloudsley, at their home 10 km North of Portimão, Algarve, Portugal, (13-20th September, 1984), to note the positions of the geckos on the walls. In all, I recorded 9 Moorish geckos (*Tarentola mauritanica*).

Most evenings, three and occasionally four juveniles (about 5cm long) emerged at intervals of about 3-4 m on a low south-facing wall beside a patio: two full-grown geckos occupied respectively the south and east walls of the house, and a third specimen inhabited our bedroom. The two remaining geckos were about 10cm in total length. One also lived in our bedroom; the other shared the east wall with, but at the opposite end from, the adult already mentioned. The animals were apparent usually only between 18.30 and 21.00 hrs and always in approximately the same regions. One of the 10cm specimens was regenerating its tail, and one of the babies lost its tail during the period of observation. These sight records suggest that *T. mauritanica* exhibits Stamps' (1977) Type 3 spacing pattern, as apparently do *T. annularis* and *Hemidactylus brookii* (Cloudsley-Thompson, 1972, 1981).

REFERENCES

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