

1. INTRODUCTION	10
1.1 Diversity and distribution of the genus <i>Tigriopus</i>	10
1.2 The environment of the rock-pools	12
1.3 Studies on the resistance of the genus <i>Tigriopus</i>	14
1.4 Main dispersal mechanisms	16
1.5 The genus <i>Tigriopus</i> in the Atlantic-Mediterranean area	17
1.6 Scope of the research	18
2. MATERIALS AND METHODS	19
2.1 Sampling and identification	19
2.2 DNA extraction, amplification and molecular analyses	20
2.3 Phylogenetic reconstruction based on morphological characters	24
3. RESULTS	34
3.1 Morphological identification	34
3.2 Phylogenetic analysis	38
3.3 Results of molecular taxonomy approaches	46
3.4 Morphology-based phylogeny of the genus <i>Tigriopus</i>	52
4. DISCUSSION	54
4.1 Molecular diversity pattern	54
4.2 Taxonomical remarks and conclusions	57
4.3 Taxonomical account and list of synonyms	58
5. REFERENCES	59
6. APPENDIX	68
6.1 PhD Research Production	68
6.2 Publications	87
6.3 Proceedings	89
6.4 28S rRNA Alignment	91