

RESTOCKING, HETEROZYGOSITY, AND THE “PURE RACE”

The cover of the Science issue of 27 November is dedicated to the desert tortoise with a headline ‘Variation Matters’. [An article](#) by Scott et al. deals with restocking of Mojave Desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassiziis*). The authors analyzed the variables of the 166 individuals used in restocking, in search of the best predictor of success of adaptation to new environments. The study suggests a relatively simple indicator of the likelihood of survival of the translocated individuals : heterozygosity. Heterozygosity of the individual obviously reflects the variation in the population. The myth of “pure race” is, from a genetic point of view, a stupidity.