TOO BAD FOR TOE PADS

Two geckos,
an island
and some powder

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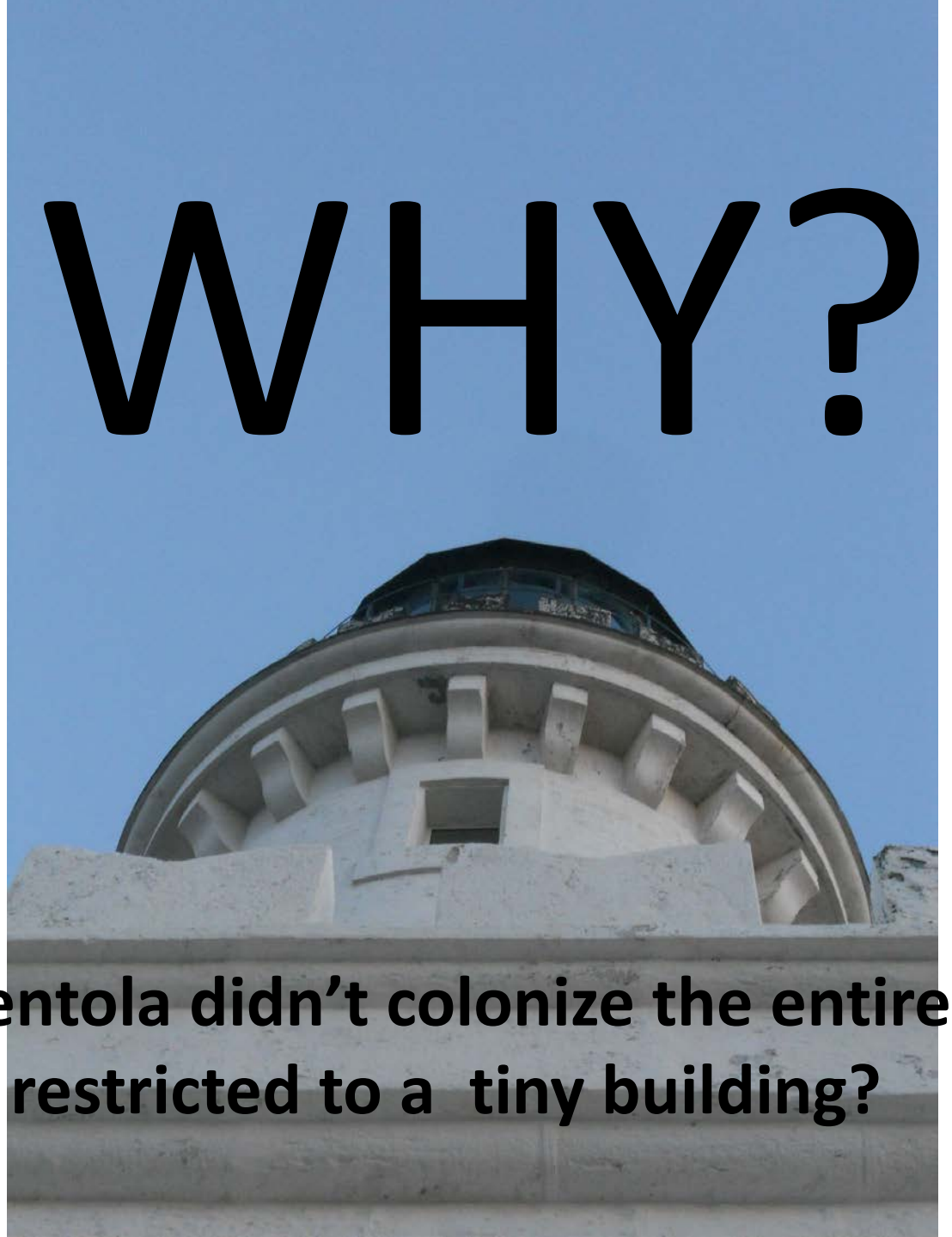
GIRAGLIA Island: Northern Corsica, 10 ha, 67 m asl, 1,3 km from the coast.

The native *Euleptes europaea* occupies all the rocky outcrops

The supposedly introduced *Tarentola mauritanica* lives only on the walls of one building. It is known from Giraglia from the mid 70's (Lanza)



Why Tarentola didn’t colonize the entire Island?
Why is it restricted to a tiny building?

the answer is

SUBSTRATUM


CEMENT


PRASINITE

Euleptes: all digits with functionnal claws, small surface of toe pads

Tarentola: functionnal claws only on the 3rd & 4th digits, large toe pads

In Corsica (main island) other prasinites'spots have been investigated for geckos: we found *Euleptes*, *Hemidactylus*, but never *Tarentola*, even when it was present in close surroundings but on other rocky substrata (shists, serpentinite, old buildings).

The building for the lighthouse’ motors is built at the end of 1950

Those findings raise some questions and remarks:

1

Why Tarentola isn’t able to get rid of prasinite powder from its toe pads?

Is it related to a particular structure of this « talc-like-powder »?

2

For some animals to be able to colonize an island (or a new territory), the substratum is a very important matter

3

Although this process is NOT related to insularity –it could occur anywhere- it has been noticed because in insular context the abnormality of a distribution was evidenced and further questions addressed.

À suivre