Podarcis bocagei - Bocage’s Wall Lizard

Podarcis bocagei lives in the same area as its closest relative, Podarcis guadarramae - but Bocage’s Wall Lizard has occupied another ecological niche. It survives in areas which are too cold for other Wall Lizards (idune areas at the Atlantic coast or mountain meadows). It is more ground dwelling than other Iberian Podarcis species but climbs on dry stone walls occasionally for basking.

Podarcis bocagei occurs in north-western Iberia from the Cantabrian Mountains and Galicia to Portugal (to the Duoro River).

Bocage’s Wall Lizard may co-occur with the following species:

- **Podarcis guadarramae** has a more slender body and a more pointed snout. Podarcis bocagei - but not Podarcis guadarramae - shows continuous light dorsolateral lines both in males and females.

- At the Portuguese Atlantic coast the ranges of Podarcis bocagei and **Podarcis carbonellii** overlap. Podarcis carbonellii has blue outer ventral scales and greenish flanks. Podarcis bocagei has no blue outer ventral scales and shows green backs, but no green flanks.

- Podarcis bocagei can be distinguished from **Podarcis muralis** as it has no blue outer ventral scales and – also in males – shows a continuous light dorsolateral line. Females have a dark supralateral line which is generally absent in female Podarcis muralis.

The approximate distribution area of Podarcis bocagei covers the north-western part of the Iberian Peninsula.
Male E / Montes de León, 06.09.2019 - This rather dark specimen shows the characteristic yellow underside.

Male E / Montes de León, 06.09.2019 - Unlike Podarcis carbonelli, Podarcis bocagei shows no blue outer ventral scales.
Female: E / Montes de León, 06.05.2019 - A female with contrasting pattern.

Female: E / Parque Natural Lago de Sanabria Gómoral, 19.09.2017 - Note the characteristic dark supra-dorsolateral stripe.
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Male E / Parque Natural Lago de Sanabria (Zamora), 03.09.2011: A male with whitish (instead of yellow) underside.

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The Montes de León - home of Podarcis boogi, Iberolacerta galani and Lacerta schreibert.

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