



Podarcis muralis - Common Wall Lizard



Subsp. muralis, female: RO / Orsova, 30.05.2013 - This species frequently shows a characteristic dark brown stripe on flanks that continues from the ear openings to the eyes.

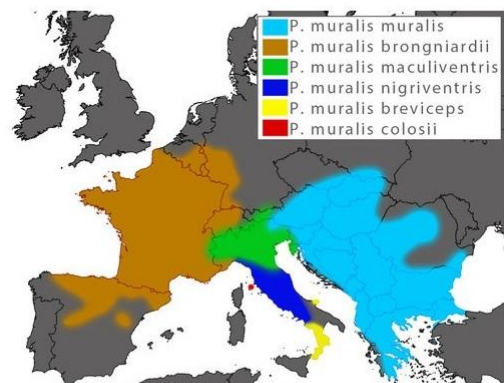
The Common Wall Lizard is really a heck of a lizard: highly opportunistic, invasive, with short reproduction cycles - with these qualities, it was able to spread from its Italian origin and populate a huge area from north-western Spain to the Black Sea coast.

Actually, these highly adaptive lizards aren't reliant on "walls" or rocks as the common name may imply. Instead, they inhabit a wide range of habitats from coastal plains to high altitude mountain areas and even established strong populations in human settlements and big cities. Yet, they could be somehow regarded as a synanthropic species.

Numerous introduced populations do exist outside of the natural range - in Europe and even North-America. People might think that such a "common" lizard is boring - but we should keep in mind that these animals are state-of-the-art reptiles!

The **nominate subspecies** occurs on the Balkan Peninsula, from eastern Austria to Turkey. It's a brownish, robust Wall Lizard which frequently shows a dark brown stripe on the flanks which continues from the ear opening to the eyes. The underside is white or reddish and the throat is reddish or red- and black-dotted.

The nominate subspecies may be confused with other *Podarcis* species of that area ([Podarcis melisellensis](#), [Podarcis siculus](#), [Podarcis tauricus](#), [Podarcis ionicus](#), [Podarcis erhardii](#) and [Podarcis peloponnesiacus](#)), but also with [Iberolacerta horvathi](#) or [Zootoca vivipara](#) (see pages of those species for differentiation).



The approximate distribution area of *Podarcis muralis* (introduced populations, mainly in Central Europe are not mapped).



Subsp. *brongniardii*, male: E / Penyagolosa, 30.08.2015 - with its brownish flank stripes and the reddish / orange underside, this subspecies looks similar to the nominate subspecies. Note the blue outer ventral scales.

Subsp. *brongniardii* occurs from north-western Spain to western Germany. It looks very similar to the nominate subspecies frequently showing the characteristic dark brown stripe on the flanks.

It may be confused with Iberian *Podarcis* species, in particular [Podarcis liolepis](#) and [Podarcis bocagei](#), although Spanish *Podarcis* are generally smaller and more delicately built. Furthermore, confusion with [Zootoca vivipara](#) and even *Iberolacerta* species ([Iberolacerta bonnali](#), [Iberolacerta aurelioi](#), [Iberolacerta aranica](#), [Iberolacerta monticola](#), [Iberolacerta cyreni](#)) is possible. See pages of those species for differentiation.



Subsp. *brongniardii*, female: E / Penyagolosa (Castellón), 30.08.2015



EUROLIZARDS

Subsp. bronngiardii, black morph: D / Kaiserstuhl (Baden-Württemberg), 18.06.2017 - In general, melanistic specimen may occur in all Lacertid species. In some populations of Podarcis muralis, such black morphs frequently occur.



EUROLIZARDS

Subsp. nigriventris, male: I / Rome, 16.06.2018 - This subspecies shows dark colours with white and greenish dots.

Subsp. nigriventris occurs in central Italy. It shows dark colourations and a distinct black underside with green colours on the back (see also the female in the header picture). It may hardly be confused with [Podarcis siculus](#) which shows much lighter colours.



Subsp. *maculiventris*: I / Tarvisio, 15.07.2010 - note the characteristic black spots on the belly.

Subsp. *maculiventris* occurs in northern Italy. Males of this subspecies show black spots on the undersides, which lack in the nominate subspecies. It may be confused with *Zootoca vivipara* or *Podarcis siculus* (see pages of those species for differentiation).

Subsp. *colosii* on Elba (Italy) may look similar but it is highly variable in pattern and sometimes even resembles to *Podarcis siculus*. Another subspecies - ***Podarcis muralis breviceps*** - occurs in southern Italy which seems to be restricted to mountain areas of Calabria and Gargano. This poorly known morph looks similar to subsp. *maculiventris* or even the nominate subspecies.



View from Moncayo to the Aragon plains (Zaragoza/Spain): In its southern populations, *Podarcis muralis* is often restricted to higher altitude habitats in the mountains.

