

***Gallotia galloti* (OUDART, 1839)**
Canarian lizard
Lagarto-de-canárias

Gallotia galloti is highly variable geographically and represented on the Canary Islands by four subspecies: *Gallotia galloti galloti* (OUDART, 1839) in the south and center of Tenerife, *Gallotia galloti eisentrauti* BISCHOFF, 1982, in the north of Tenerife, on Roque de Garachico and Roque Dentro de Anaga, introduced on El Hierro, *Gallotia galloti insulanagae* MARTÍN, 1985 on Roque Fuero de Anaga, and *Gallotia galloti palmae* (BOETTGER & MÜLLER, 1914) on La Palma.

DUMÉRIL & BIBRON (1839) already mentioned the presence of the Canary lizard on Madeira in the year of its first description. STEINDACHNER (1891) and CYRÉN (1934) questioned this statement subsequently, but a subadult reference specimen (ZFMK 26545) is housed in the collection of the Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig in Bonn, Germany, that - provided it has been labelled properly - was captured at Funchal in 1887. Since the traits of intraspecific differences are largely particular to adult males, this specimen can be referred to the subspecies *Gallotia galloti eisentrauti* only with reservations (BISCHOFF in litt. 1993). However, by publishing a photograph of a Canary lizard taken in the Botanical Gardens of Funchal, BRINGSØE (1993) again drew the attention to the occurrence of this lizard on Madeira.



Fig. 167: Male; Bajamar/Tenerife. Photograph by M. GARCIA-PARIS.

Considering that this is an adaptable species that inhabits the Canary Islands right from the splash zone of the ocean to the edge of the crater of the Pico de Teide (3718 m) (BÁEZ 1984), has successfully conquered all types of habitats imaginable (except for dense forests), and partly occurs there in very large population densities, it is rather remarkable that it has obviously not managed to establish itself firmly on Madeira, too. It may be speculated that the numbers of introduced specimens were too small, or they may have fallen victim to unfavorable circumstances. Whatever the case, *Gallotia galloti* can at this stage only be regarded as a species that has occasionally ended up on Madeira, but not as a genuine faunal element of the island.

References: BARBADILLO et al. (1999), BRINGSØE (1993), JESUS et al. (2002), MALKMUS (1995a), MOLINA-BORJA & BISCHOFF (1998).



Fig. 168: Female; Bajamar/Tenerife. Photograph by M. GARCIA-PARIS.