

EUROLIZARDS

Iberolacerta cyreni - Cyren's Rock Lizard



Subsp. castilliana: E / Sierra de Gredos (Ávila), 26.09.2010 - Subspecies castilliana may show bright greenish colours.

Cyren's Rock Lizard is a self-confident mountain lizard: This robust species can be seen basking on rocks during the whole afternoon. They even seem to be unimpressed by noisy groups of hikers, which may be quite numerous, as this lizard's habitats are frequented by weekend tourists from the Madrid area.

Two subspecies of this stoical lizard are currently recognized:

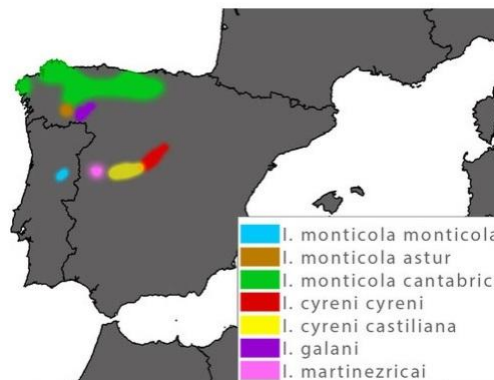
- The *nominate subspecies* occurs in the Sierra de Guadarrama north of Madrid.
- *Subspecies castilliana* occurs further west, in the Sierra de Gredos and some adjoining mountain ranges.

Within its habitat, the nominate subspecies has to compete with *Podarcis muralis* and meanwhile even with *Podarcis guadarramae* which increasingly occupies high altitude habitats. Climate warming may enhance this development.

Females of both *Podarcis* species may be distinguished by their light dorsolateral lines. Furthermore, *Podarcis muralis* frequently shows orange throats. *Podarcis guadarramae* is significantly smaller than *Iberolacerta cyreni*.

In the Sierra de Gredos, subspecies *castilliana* only has to share its habitat with some Ibex (and the mentioned hikers). This well-adapted mountain species inhabits even the rocky peak areas without any vegetation (up to approx. 2600 meters).

Iberolacerta cyreni differs from the other western Iberian Rock Lizards by not showing blue ocelli on the shoulders.



Distribution areas of the Iberian *Iberolacerta* species: *Iberolacerta cyreni* occurs in some mountain ranges of the Sistema Central.



EUROLIZARDS

Subsp. cyreni, male: E / Puerto De La Morcuera (Sierra de Guadarrama), 01.10.2010 - Note the absence of blue ocelli.



EUROLIZARDS

Subsp. cyreni, male: E / Puerto De La Morcuera (Sierra de Guadarrama), 10.09.2014 - Specimens of the nominate subspecies are less colourful compared to subspecies castiliana.



Subsp. castiliana: E / Sierra de Gredos (Ávila), 25.09.2010 - A male, displaying in front of the photographer.



Subsp. castiliana: E / Sierra de Gredos (Ávila), 25.09.2010 - some specimens show green-reddish iridescence.



The surroundings of Laguna Grande de Gredos (Ávila / Spain) are ruled by Ibex (*Capra pyrenaica*) and Iberolacerta cyreni.


EUROLIZARDS

[About](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookie Policy](#) | [Sitemap](#)
EUROLIZARDS - The Home of European Lizards! © Birgit & Peter Oefinger