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Spring 2016 - Herpetological trip to Ibiza (Spain)

MARTEN VAN DEN BERG, MIKE ZAWADZKI and MICHAEL KRONIGER, May 2016.

Summary / Introduction

This is already our sixth report in a series on our whereabouts while collecting data for a future revision of the present subspecific order of the endemic Balearic sisterspecies *Podarcis lilfordi* (GÜNTHER, 1874) and *Podarcis pityusensis* (BOSCA, 1883), which data are stored in our database at www.pityusensis.nl (VAN DEN BERG & ZAWADZKI 2011 ; VAN DEN BERG et al. 2013 ; VAN DEN BERG et al. 2014a ; VAN DEN BERG et al. 2014b ; VAN DEN BERG et al. 2015). During this trip from the 27th of March until the 9th of April 2016, we were able to collect data at some mainland Ibiza locations, as well as on the following adjacent islands: Sa Mesquida, S'Hort, S'Illeta de Cala Salada, Vedranell, Rates, Bleda Plana, Murada, Bleda Na Bosc and S'Espardell de S'Espartar. We continue with the ventral coloration as a possible determining key as introduced in our 2014 trip report (VAN DEN BERG et al. 2014b). Images of the anal shields are presented of each lizard for purposes of illustration.



Image 1. Our host, CHEMA RAMON, performing some final preparations for our stay at the poolside.

At home on Ibiza

Our 2016 Easter trip to Ibiza was also the fifth consecutive homecoming at CHEMA RAMON's house in Can Pilot, on the route from Sant Rafel to Santa Agnès de Corona (3.5 km to the north-west of Sant Rafel). This part of central rural Ibiza is an exquisite beautiful and quite oasis, compared to the not that beautiful and usually not so quiet touristic urbanization's in the coastal areas. However, due to the early time in year, we did not encounter lots of tourists anywhere, and most places we visited were still almost completely abandoned.

This year we even more indulged the ever increasing luxury of CHEMA's house, or better, his small Finca (see image on the front page), and in addition, during the first week, the presence of ANGELA REIJNDERS, who spoiled us at dinnertime, and other occasions. The only downside was her unexpected fixation towards some "Deutsche Schlager" songs. Probably not what you would expect from a sane Dutchwoman.

Image 2. ANGELA at the porch.

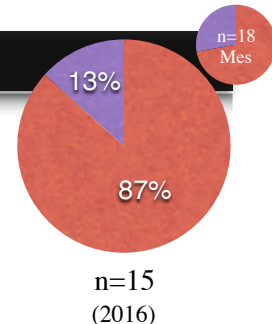
Image 3. "Our" small Finca in Can Pilot de S'Hort (info at: [HomeAway.com](https://www.HomeAway.com)).



Date	Location	Coordinates	"subspecies"	specimens	DNA	
2016-03-27	Ibiza - Can Pilot	38.982131 1.371703	<i>P. p. pityusensis</i>	2,1,1	4	BZ
2016-03-28	Sa Mesquida	39.103456 1.494141	<i>P. p. pityusensis</i>	6,9,0	15	BZ
2016-03-29	S'Hort	39.046769 1.606590	<i>P. p. hortae</i>	4,3,0	6	BZK
2016-03-30	S'Illeta de Cala Salada	39.011180 1.293330	<i>P. p. calaesaladae</i>	13,3,1	17	BZK
2016-03-31	Vedranell	38.868967 1.209569	<i>P. p. vedrae</i>	1,1,0	2	BZK
2016-04-01	Ibiza - Can Pilot	38.982131 1.371703	<i>P. p. pityusensis</i>	3,0,0	3	BZK
2016-04-01	Ibiza - Figueretes	38.898292 1.417972	<i>P. p. pityusensis</i>	1,0,1	2	BZK
2016-04-01	Rates	38.896294 1.422966	<i>P. p. ratae</i>	2,1,1	4	BZK
2016-04-02	Bleda Plana	38.979929 1.159637	<i>P. p. maluquerorum</i>	11,10,3	24	BZK
2016-04-03	Murada	39.092549 1.432257	<i>P. p. muradae</i>	13,12,0	25	BZK
2016-04-04	Ibiza - Can Pilot	38.982131 1.371703	<i>P. p. pityusensis</i>	13,2,0	15	BZK
2016-04-05	Bleda Na Bosc	38.972372 1.165752	<i>P. p. gorrae</i>	4,3,2	9	BZK
2016-04-06	Ibiza - Can Pilot	38.982131 1.371703	<i>P. p. pityusensis</i>	12,1,2	15	BZK
2016-04-07	S'Espardell de S'Espartar	38.957173 1.189055	<i>P. p. frailensis</i>	9,5,0	14	BZK
2016-04-08	Ibiza - Torre d'en Rovira	38.972719 1.230510	<i>P. p. pityusensis</i>	1,0,1	2	BZ
2016-04-09	Ibiza - Illa Grossa	38.905762 1.45659	<i>P. p. pityusensis</i>	4,3,3	10	BZ

Table 1. Data collected on Ibiza and surrounding islands during spring 2016 (under permits CEP 05-07/2016), by B = MARTEN VAN DEN BERG, Z = MIKE ZAWADZKI and K = MICHAEL KRONIGER.

Monday, the 28th of March 2016 - Sa Mesquida (Mes)



Illot de Sa Mesquida, situated off the northern coast of Ibiza, at Cala Xarraca. An old acquaintance to MIKE who visited this island back in 1996 and together with MICHAEL in 2000, and 2001, which led to two publications, one putting the Illot de Sa Mesquida lizard population into the synonymy of *Podarcis pityusensis pityusensis* (KRONIGER & ZAWADZKI 2002), and the second reporting on interactions between *Podarcis pityusensis* and *Larus michahellis* (ZAWADZKI & KRONIGER 2003).

Anyway, while MICHAEL was still waiting for his delayed plane in Hanover, MIKE and MARTEN met MARTINA GREEF, owner of [ibizakayak](#), and went with her and her kayaks to the beach of Cala Xarraca. There we had our first kayaking experience on Ibiza, and paddled towards the island. This day MARTINA joined us the whole day on the island, and she turned out to be a good replacement for the missing plane spotter in Hanover. With her enthusiastic assistance we were able to add a significant expansion of 6,9,0 specimens to our dataset.

It turned out that visiting Sa Mesquida in early spring was a perfect choice to increase our dataset of this population. Although the nesting gulls left their nests and watched us carefully from above when we entered the island, they did not start to make a hell of a noise and attacked us like we experienced it on our first two visits to this island. Today the majority of the gulls even lost interest in us after a while and even returned to their nests, when it was located far enough from us. Only the parents of the nests in close proximity to us watched us from a safe distance. The same happened on all other islands we visited during this year's trip. A possible explanation for this unexpected behavior could be the fact that the gulls eggs (1-3 per nest) had not hatched yet. This was different to the situation on the first two visits to this island in the second half of June 1996 and on the 30.05.2000. We were only able to spot two respectively three lizards, and the gulls were quite loud and aggressive because their chicks had already hatched. So there seems to be a stronger bond towards their chicks in comparison to their eggs.

Image 4. Male *Podarcis pityusensis* on Illot de Sa Mesquida.



Sa Mesquida



Image 5. MARTEN and MARTINA, with the first island catch of this trip, on Illot de Sa Mesquida.

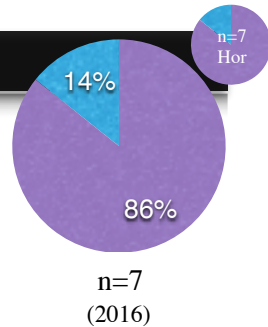


During our third visit on 18.08.2001 the breeding season of the gulls was obviously over as we did not find any gulls – except some remains of dead gull chicks – on the island. However, we saw a lot of lizards outside the bushes, basking on rocks. Therefore the gulls brood care seems to have a strong impact on the lizards behavior especially on the island of Sa Mesquida, where they might even predate on *Podarcis pityusensis* to feed their young.

Image 6. Another girl on Illot de Sa Mesquida.



Tuesday, the 29th of March 2016 - **S'Hort** (Hor)



Yes, it was already Tuesday, and while the others were already deep in dreamworld, MARTEN still was receiving incomprehensible gibberish text messages somewhere from an airport. The last one mentioning something resembling a taxi. Fortunately for MICHAEL, MARTEN got in the car right away and picked him up at the airport, where there were obvious no cabs, only a very long queue of people waiting for one. To all those people arriving from Barcelona, the situation had been very chaotic. At least Michael had arrived, too bad his suitcase stayed behind in Barcelona for some extra days.

After a few hours of sleep, the alarm clock went off quite early, announcing a busy day. First we visited Carrer de Múrcia number 6, in order to make arrangements for our visits inside the Reserves naturals des Vedrà, es Vedranell i illots de Ponent, and met MARIANA VIÑAS and VIRGINIA PICORELLI. The possibility of their assistance in visiting Ses Margalides was also addressed, unfortunately that required some extra paperwork, what we settled later.

After a quick inquiry at the airport on the procedure in retrieving a suitcase, we went to Platja es Figueral. MARTINA, who had business to attend in Catalunya, had arranged a colleague to provide us kayaks during her absence. It might had something to do with MICHAEL's state of luck, but [PAOLO DELL'AGNOLO PÉREZ](#) of [kayak-ibiza](#) was delayed too. This time was used for a quick search inside the torrent. Proving not all delays are a bad thing, we caught a juvenile horseshoe whip snake, *Hemorrhoids hippocrepis*, which was posted to Germany, after approval and permission (TRA 02/2016) of JOAN MAYOL and CATERINA AMENGUAL.



Image 7. PAOLO at Platja es Figueral.



Image 8. *Hemorrhoids hippocrepis*, or was it a sand boa after all?

After 30 minutes of paddling and climbing we arrived on S'Hort island, or s'Illot de s'Ora as PAOLO would have called it. Notwithstanding the clear blue skies, temperatures were not that favorable due to the constant breeze on the totally flat, unsheltered plateau of this small island. On top, only a few *Pistacia lentiscus* shrubs provided some protection against the wind, and just the trap placed in the shelter of the biggest was effective in catching lizards. Also taking life images was not very easy.

Nevertheless we were able to collect a sample of 4,3,0 specimens, given the circumstances, not a bad catch after all.

First impression: Coloration resembles more the mainstream Illa Tagomago population (not the kiosk area) compared to the nearby part of Ibiza lizards.

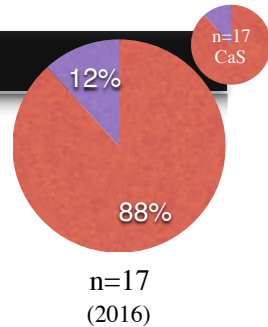


Image 9. Male *Podarcis pityusensis* on S'Hort island.



Image 10. Subadult specimen of *Podarcis pityusensis* on S'Hort island.

Wednesday, the 30th of March 2016 - S'Illeta de Cala Salada (CaS)



Wednesday morning, after a relaxed breakfast, we went to the beach of Cala Salada to meet PAOLO's sister, GIOVANNA DELL, who replaced her brother in delivering the kayaks. We paddled the short way to S'Illeta de Cala Salada, situated just around the corner of the bay.

Weather conditions were more favorable then the day before. Clear blue skies, but without the constant breeze, therefor catching lizards was also a breeze. They seemed quite relaxed while basking, and in many cases were interested in their visitors, what made catching them by hand easy. Also the traps were successful, so at the end of the afternoon we had an 13,3,1 addition to our database.



Image 11. GIOVANNA and MICHAEL unloading the kayaks.



Image 12. A red-bellied *Podarcis pityusensis* at S'Illeta de Cala Salada.

S'Illeta de Cala Salada



Image 13. View from the top on S'Illeta de Cala Salada.



Image 14. MICHAEL catching a lizard by hand.

Thursday, the 31st of March 2016 - Vedranell (Vnl)

n=2
Vnl

100%

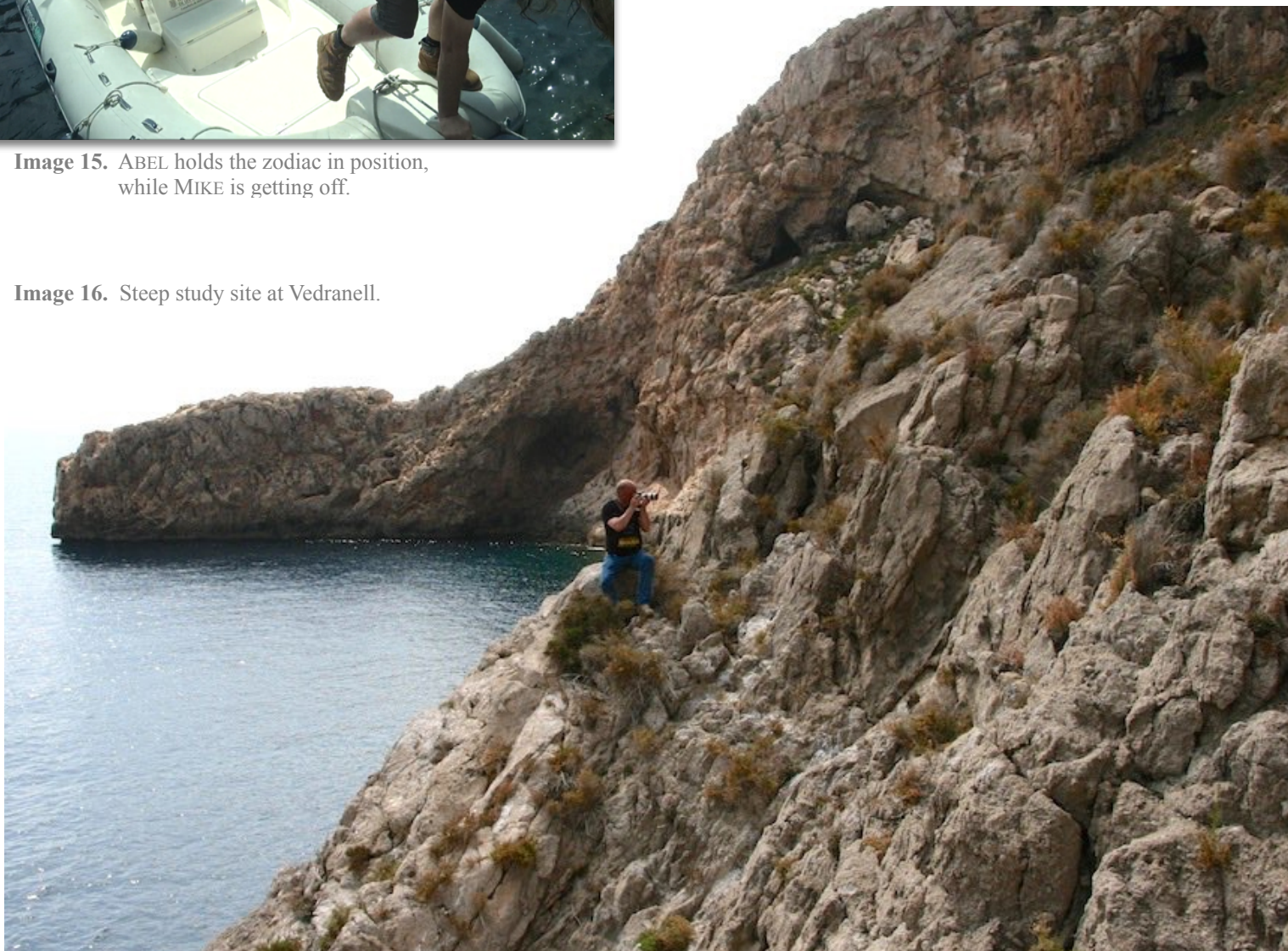
n=2
(2016)

Our first visit inside the Reserves naturals des Vedrà, es Vedranell i illots de Ponent was scheduled on Thursday. We met our skipper ABEL O'FERRAL and RAFA BAEZ in the harbor of Sant Antoni at 8:00, and then we first went to Conillera in order to pick up MAITE LOUZAO, DAVID GARCÍA and a Chinese PhD student. They were based in the small garage near the jetty of Conillera, from where they were performing their biennially work (mainly) on *Puffinus mauretanicus*, the Balearic shearwater (see video). They were present during our entire trip, and we did not envy their Spartan accommodation. That we live in a small world after all, was demonstrated by the fact that MAITE's boyfriend, JAVIER RODRIQUEZ-PEREZ, together with LUIS SANTAMARIA, also are involved in research on *Podarcis lilfordi*. These names were familiar to us, because we were acquainted with some of their publications.



Image 15. ABEL holds the zodiac in position, while MIKE is getting off.

Image 16. Steep study site at Vedranell.



After the three ornithologists (we know they are more than just ornithologists) had disembarked at S'Espartar, we went on for our first visit to Vedranell. Finally, after so many failed attempts. To our first impression, Vedranell looked more arid than the other islands we have visited this trip. Due to the time of day and weather conditions, not many lizards were showing themselves, and the ones we saw all looked quite skinny. At least MICHAEL was in a good mood, because he had retrieved his suitcase with the big lens and his balance. Too bad we did not catch that much lizards this morning (only 1,1,0 specimens), but in the end two is better than nothing. The short stay became even shorter due to the change of weather. Big waves on our way back! Even getting completely soaked did not spoil this morning.



Image 17. Male *Podarcis pityusensis* at Vedranell.

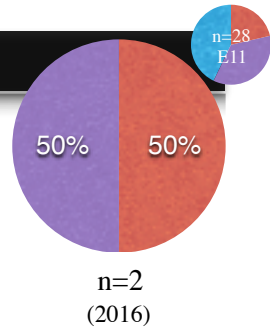


Image 18. Female *Podarcis pityusensis* at Vedranell.



Image 19. Male *Podarcis pityusensis* against a changing sky. The waves are coming!

Friday, the 1st of April 2016 - Ibiza: **Figueretes** (E11)



No plans were made for Friday because of the unfavorable weather forecast, so it started with a lazy morning. However, at Can Pilot, in the center of Ibiza, weather seemed quite good, without the predicted strong winds. So we gave MARTINA GREEF a call, to find out if she already had returned from Catalunya, and she did. We made an appointment at Figueretes around one o'clock, to visit Rates island by kayak. As always we arrived early, and MIKE could not resist to catch some lizards (1,0,1), which were processed as usual.

It seems like the wind always blows on the nearby Rates island, at least when we are present. Like last year's visit, this visit was also dominated by the wind, keeping most lizards in the shelter of the bushes. They were also not very interested in our traps. Nevertheless we were able to catch 2,1,1 specimens, which were added to our database.



Image 20. MICHAEL fully packed, but still trying to catch something.



Image 21. Rates island during the early afternoon: More wind, lesser lizards.

Friday, the 1st of April 2016 - **Rates** (Rat)

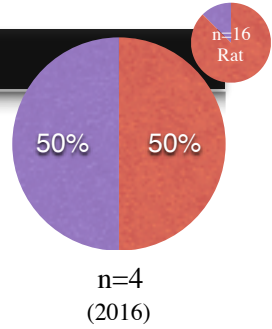


Image 22. Male *Podarcis pityusensis* on Rates island.

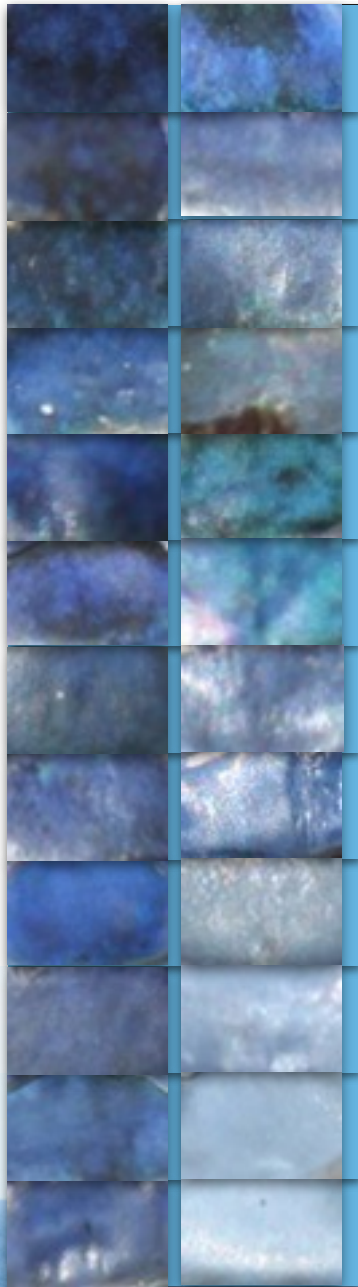


Image 23. Female *Podarcis pityusensis* on Rates island.

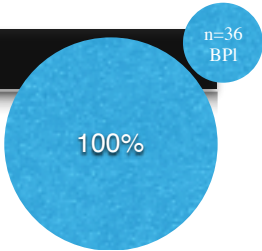
In the end, a lot of small samples also result in a well sized sample. We thought that this year’s visit, without having time constraints on the island, could make the difference, but it didn’t. Around five o’clock dark skies were approaching, omen to the coming rainfall, especially during the night.



Image 24. Rates island during the late afternoon: Rain is coming.



Saturday, the 2nd of April 2016 - **Bleda Plana** (BPI)



n=24
(2016)

Saturday morning, after dropping the ornithologists from Conillera at a cave site on Bosc island, the target was Escull Vermell, one of the islands we did not have visited in the past. Still a lot of waves after a night of bad weather, and maybe it was luck, or sheer enthusiasm, but MARTEN had a soft landing on this very small island. However, the waves were coming from both sides of the island, and our skipper ABEL had no way to estimate the next wave to arrive, which could elevate the zodiac two meters easily, therefore we had to abort our efforts to get the whole team transferred.

After MARTEN jumped back into the boat, we decided to go to Bleda Plana instead, which has a more sheltered arrival place, and so we did. At least the lizards must have been about the same, but that is for another trip to experience, because two later attempts getting on Escull Vermell had to be aborted as well.



Image 26. Escull Vermell, shortest visit during this trip.

Bleda Plana



Image 26. Lighthouse at Bleda Plana.



Image 27. View from the lighthouse of Bleda Plana, with view on S'Espartar, Bleda Na Bosc, Bleda Na Gorra and Vedrà.

Bleda Plana



Image 29. Pair of *Podarcis pityusensis* on Bleda Plana.



Image 28. Working fast.



Image 30. Male *Podarcis pityusensis* on Bleda Plana

Bleda Plana

We never encountered any problems in catching lizards on Bleda Plana, and this time was not different. The only problem is to get them all measured and sampled in the given time. In this case we choose to use the last hour of our stay to measure only the metric characters of the lizards, and try to add the meristic data, as far as possible, from the images back at home. In the end, of the 11,10,3 caught specimens, only 8 full measurements were taken on site, among them a milestone to us, ZBK 01000, our thousandth caught lizard in the Balearics.

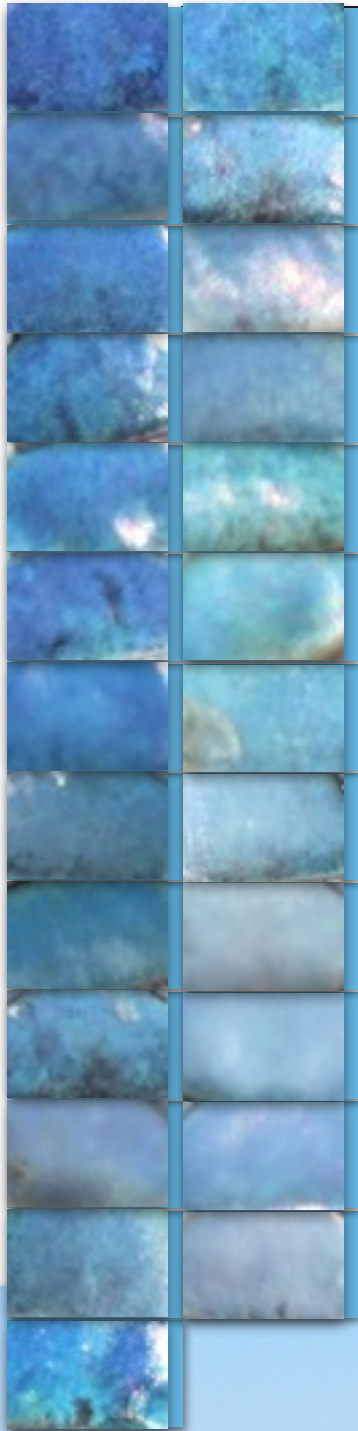
A striking observation was, that most of the trapped lizards were shedding or in the phase just before shedding, causing the ventral- and anal shield images to appear lighter, in some case even light bluish.



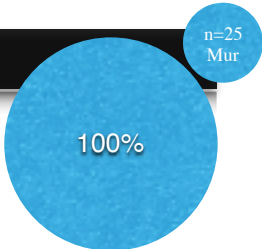
Image 31. Male lizard from Bleda Plana: ZBK 01000.



Image 32. Pair of *Podarcis pityusensis* on Bleda Plana.



Sunday, the 3rd of April 2016 - **Murada** (Mur)



n=25
(2016)

After dropping ANGELA at the airport, it only took another call to MARTINA GREEF, and a long-cherished desire would be achieved; we were going to Murada! This morning MARTINA joined us for two hours, securing the kayaks after the trip from Port de Sant Miguel, and climbing up the “path” to the plateau of the island, where we arrived around eleven o’clock.

The first thing that struck us on top of the plateau was the lushness and versatility of the plant cover. One thing came to our mind immediately; those yellow *Euphorbia* flowers looked a lot like the ones on Ses Margalides, at least we could not tell the difference. Then we learned another asset of MARTINA, besides providing kayaks, cooking a delicious meal, what we enjoyed that same evening, she also was aware of the intentional translocation of *Euphorbia margalidiana* to Murada back in 2005.



Image 33. flowering *Euphorbia margalidiana* on Murada island.



Image 34. Murada island as seen from Punta de Sa Ferradura in 2014.

Murada



Image 35. South side of the Murada plateau.



Image 36. Selfie of MIKE
with MARTINA.

Image 37. North side of the Murada plateau.

Murada

When we made our request for help with transport to Ses Margalides, we were asked to take some photos to assess the situation of the endemic *Euphorbia margalidiana* on the island in behalf of EVA MORAGUES of the Servei de Protecció d'Espècies, together with an assessment of the number of *Larus michahellis* nests. EVA MORAGUES is also involved in monitoring the translocated *Euphorbia margalidiana* population on Murada island, and she was so kind to provide us three internal reports on this issue.



Image 38. *Euphorbia margalidiana* locations on Murada.

Image 39. New offsprings of *Euphorbia margalidiana* on Murada.



According to these internal reports, the first attempt to establish an *Euphorbia margalidiana* population on Murada was made in 2005. The material (cuttings) used for this controlled introduction of *Euphorbia margalidiana* was obtained from several adult plants (probably clones) from the Casal de la Joventut Gardens of the Consell Insular de Mallorca, in Palma, and a single plant from the Botanic Garden in Valencia, obtained years ago from the Botanic Garden in Sóller.

From the 90 cuttings planted on Murada in three different sites in 2005, Only 5 living specimens were retrieved in 2007, in the southernmost site on the island. A new introduction was made in 2007 with 30 fully-, and 30 lesser developed cuttings, but in contrast to 2005, all plants were transferred into pots with 3 liters of standard substrate, as used in the nursery. Also 250 seeds, harvested in 2007 from the original population of Ses Margalides, were planted in 25 groups of 10 seeds.

In 2010 the 5 specimens from the 2005 introduction as well as 10 specimens from the 2007 introduction had survived, and 3 new sprouts were found. During this 2010 session, 72 new seeds have been planted, mostly near to the previously planted specimens.

During our visit, remnants of the 2005 project were still present, but occupied by Shrubby sea-blite, *Suaeda vera*, to our observation the most common plant species on Murada, especially in the northern half of the island. However, *Euphorbia margalidiana* was found in most parts of the southern part of the island (see image 38). To our observation, the elder plants seem to be doing very well, and a lot of offsprings can be observed. To illustrate this we uploaded a small video walking around the area with an action cam (see video).



Image 40. Thriving older introductions (southern 2005 site).



Image 41. Remnants of the northern 2005 site.



Image 42. According to the data of the internal reports, these tags should be associated with something else.

Murada



Image 43. More colorful female *Podarcis pityusensis* on Murada.



Image 44. Very colorful male *Podarcis pityusensis* on Murada. Note the light hind legs.

Murada



Image 45. Dark female *Podarcis pityusensis* on Murada.



Image 46. Dark male *Podarcis pityusensis* on Murada.

Murada



Being on the plateau of Murada after all those years was very satisfactory to us. The weather conditions were also favorable for catching lizards, so it was easy to add 13,12,0 specimens to our database. Most of them were more or less melanistic, but like the populations on most other islands, the Murada population is not of uniform coloration. Besides the majority of melanistic lizards, there is also a big minority of a second color morph, with quite bluish and more pronounced greenish coloration, as if the melanophores, or at least the melanin pigments, are less present. Especially the cyan hind legs, as can be seen in the males of image 44 and 50, are very characteristic.

Image 47. Ventral side of male ZBK 01036.



Image 48. Juvenile *Podarcis pityusensis* on Murada.



Image 49. Dark female *Podarcis pityusensis* on Murada.



Image 50. Another very colorful male *Podarcis pityusensis* on Murada.



Image 51. Another melanistic specimen on Murada.

Monday, the 4th of April 2016 - Ibiza: **Can Pilot**

It started raining early in the morning and it seemed it would never stop. Late afternoon, when at last it became dry again, MIKE could not resist to catch some lizards (13,2,0), which will be listed, together with all other Can Pilot lizards, on Wednesday, the 6th of April 2016.



Image 52. Lots of flowers everywhere.



Image 53. Basin with windmill.



Image 54. *Tarentola mauritanica*.



Image 55. In the back garden.

Almost no images were made today, except from the caught lizards. Therefore we will show some impressions of the area around our house, which were taken the previous days under better conditions.



Image 56. Female at Can Pilot.



Image 57. Male at Can Pilot.

Tuesday, the 5th of April 2016 - **Bleda Na Bosc (BNB)**

n=23
BNB

100%

n=9
(2016)

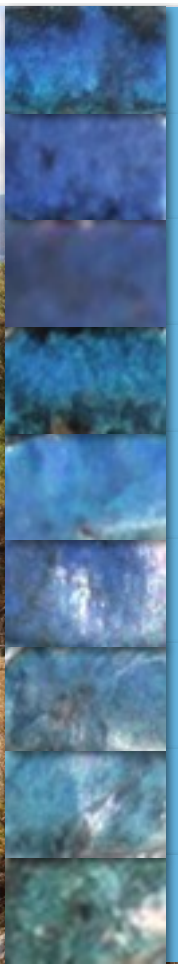


Image 58. Bleda Na Bosc, with Vedrà in the background.



We started at noon due to the weather on Monday, and our first goal was Escull Vermell again. A quick look was enough to decide to go to Bleda Na Bosc instead. It was still quite chilly, nevertheless MIKE felt it was necessary to test the automatic inflation system of the life jackets. They functioned according the specifications.

We operated from the same location on the island as three years ago, our first visit to the Bleda islands ever. Back in 2013, MICHAEL joined the party a little later, so for him it still was a first visit.

The first lizards had to be caught from under turned stones, but later when the sun came out again, and temperatures became pleasant again (especially for MIKE), the traps were in business too. At the end of the afternoon 4,3,2 specimens were ready to be added to our database.

In contrast to what we observed in 2013, in most cases melanistic lizards with clear green dorsal coloration, this year the green dorsal coloration was clearly the minority.

Image 59. Almost trapped.

Bleda Na Bosc



Image 60. Male *Podarcis pityusensis* on Bleda Na Bosc, with some cryptic green dorsal coloration.



Image 61. Female *Podarcis pityusensis* on Bleda Na Bosc, fully melanistic.

Bleda Na Bosc



Image 62. Female on Bleda Na Bosc, with more coloration.



Image 63. Another “colorful” female.



Image 64. A migratory Willow warbler, *Phylloscopus trochilus*, with a lizard in the background, probably considering its size...

Bleda Na Bosc

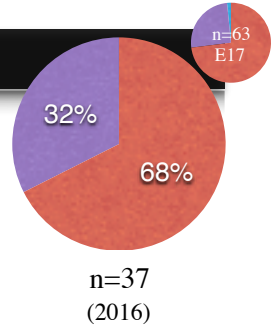


Image 65. This year the majority; melanistic lizards. In this case a shedding male.



Image 66. Our transport with DAVID, ABEL, RAFA and MAITE.

Wednesday, the 6th of April 2016 - Ibiza: **Can Pilot** (E17)



The weather forecast was right again, very strong wind, so no islands open for visit today. Instead we went to Carrer de Murcia number 6 again, to deliver our thank you very much cake, as tradition requires. At the office only NÚRIA VALVERDE (of the management) was present. We had a little chat, and it turned out that HELENA RIBAS, our liaison during our first trip on Ibiza, was working in the recently opened information centre on the Ibiza side of the Ses Salines park, situated in the old chapel of Sant Francesc de s'Estany. It was obvious that we would give this center a visit, now we had two good reasons.

Image 67. Information centre in the old chapel of Sant Francesc de s'Estany.



Ibiza: Sant Francesc de s'Estany

Image 67.

11-02-2016 - NÚRIA VALVERDE on tour with the Council of Ibiza during the official opening of the renovated information centre of the Ses Salines natural park in Sant Francesc de s'Estany.

The Centro de Interpretación del Parque Natural de ses Salines, already open since June 2015, is recently enhanced with new multi media equipment and binoculars.

source: DIARIO DE IBIZA, 11-02-2016.



Image 68. Interior impression.



Ibiza: Sant Francesc de s'Estany



Image 69. They did not forget the lizards.

Image 70. The chapel next-door is still dedicated to its original purpose.



When we arrived at the centre, we had HELENA all to ourselves. Her colleague MARTA TUR had take along the visiting group of children from Mallorca to the nearby Torre de sa Sal Rossa. HELENA provided us with a big tour of the slick looking information centre, explained and showed us everything, including a very nice video presentation of the park.

Our congratulations to the team for this wonderful effort. An outstanding result!

Ibiza: Sant Francesc de s'Estany

Finally, HELENA took us to the tower as well, where we got our second private guided tour of the day. On top of the tower our heads almost blew off, but in the end it turned out to have become a very pleasant and successful morning, even without the lizards.

Later that afternoon, back home in Can Pilot, we addressed the lizard issue too, resulting in another 12,1,2 specimens that could be added to our database.



Image 72. Posing in the wind with HELENA.

Image 71. Torre de sa Sal Rossa.



Image 73. Another 15 lizards from Can Pilot.

Thursday, the 7th of April 2016 - S'Espardell de S'Espartar (EsS)

n=23
EsS

100%

n=14
(2016)



Image 74. Balearic warbler, *Sylvia balearica*.

Image 75. View on Bleda Plana.



Image 76. View from S'Espardell de S'Espartar in the early morning.

S'Espardell de S'Espartar

Thursday morning ABEL proposed Ses Margalides island as destination, but because he was not available to get us back late in the afternoon, we decided to revisit S'Espardell de S'Espartar instead. A two hour stay on Ses Margalides would have been far to less time for all the goals we wanted to achieve, so this remarkable population has to wait for a next trip.

The S'Espardell de S'Espartar lizards resembled, on closer look, the more colorful lizards of the Bleda Na Bosc population. Some specimens on S'Espardell de S'Espartar, like the lizard in image 79, show the characteristic brown colored hind-legs of the S'Espartar lizards.

Image 77. Female on S'Espardell de S'Espartar.



Image 78. Male on S'Espardell de S'Espartar.

S'Espardell de S'Espartar



Image 79. Male with brown hind-legs on S'Espardell de S'Espartar.



Image 80. Another male on S'Espardell de S'Espartar.

S'Espardell de S'Espartar



Image 81. Photo session at the farewell of the “ornithologists” at the jetty of Conillera, with the PhD student and MAITE.

The 9,50 lizards we caught were a nice extension to our dataset of this population, so it was a perfect alternative to Ses Margalides after all.

Most of the morning we could see the ornithologist walk around on the opposite island S'Espartar. This was an unusual sight, because most of their work took place underground, inside caves. Because today was the last opportunity to sail with ABEL, we said goodbye at the jetty of Conillera.

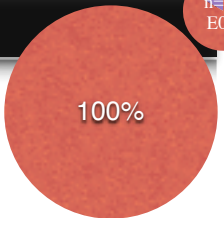
Image 81. The ornithologists returning to their luxury accommodation.



Image 82. Selfie-time: Last returning with ABEL this spring.

Friday, the 8th of April 2016 - Ibiza: **Torre d'en Rovira (E06)**

n=18
E06



n=2
(2016)



Image 83. Male at Torre d'en Rovira.



Image 84. Female at Torre d'en Rovira.

After having dropped MICHAEL at the airport for his flight back to Hanover, we drove to Sa Canal to have a look at the waves around Escull d'en Terra and Caragoler island. It was like the second half of Thursday a beautiful day, but the wind was blowing quite strong. The breakers around both islands did not show very promising, and it should have been a quite long trip paddling along the coast to reach them. In short, we decided to be lazy, and went to the Cala Comte area once more to check for black lizards that reportedly were translocated in the past.



Image 85. Torre d'en Rovira in the Cala Comte area.

We walked around a new site to us, the area of Torre d'en Rovira, but the wind on this side of Ibiza was even worse. Not many lizards were out basking, and also turning stones was not very effective. In the end we were able to measure only 1,0,1 specimens.

Enough time left to attend our administrative work, and to redeem our debts with MARTINA, who had a friend visiting from Barcelona. As a farewell present, with the compliments of CHEMA, we invited the girls for dinner at sunset on Platjes de Comte, like the week before, when ANGELA was leaving. Although there was one big difference. The week before we had the area almost to ourselves, but this evening all tourists on the island had decided to follow our lead. In the end, dinner was enjoyed at [Can Tixedò](#) art cafe, not far from our house. Highly recommended.



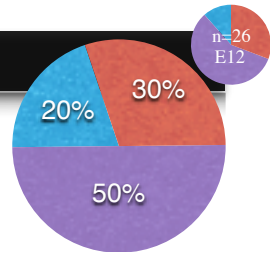
Image 86. Yet another selfie, however one week old, this time with ANGELA.



Image 87. Sunset with MARTINA and

friend at Platjes de Comte.

Saturday, the 9th of April 2016 - Ibiza: **Illa Grossa** (E12)



n=10
(2016)

Saturday, our last day of this trip, we first went to one of the Garden Centers on Ibiza, in order to get an impression of the (probable) main source of terrestrial invaders. Well educated, we first asked politely for permission. That was not that easy. After a long discussion with the manager we could walk around the premises, but no photos allowed. Finally, no exceptional observations were made.

After this visit we drove to our almost traditional last location, the former island Illa Grossa, near Ibiza town. It might have something to do with the coloration of this population, probably the most shining green backs can be found here. Under clear skies, filled with landing aircraft, we were able to add our last 4,3,3 specimens of this trip to our database.



Image 88. The former island Illa Grossa.

Illa Grossa



Image 89. Bluish male on Illa Grossa.



Image 90.
What awaited us the next morning.



Image 91. *Hemidactylus turcicus* on Illa Grossa.

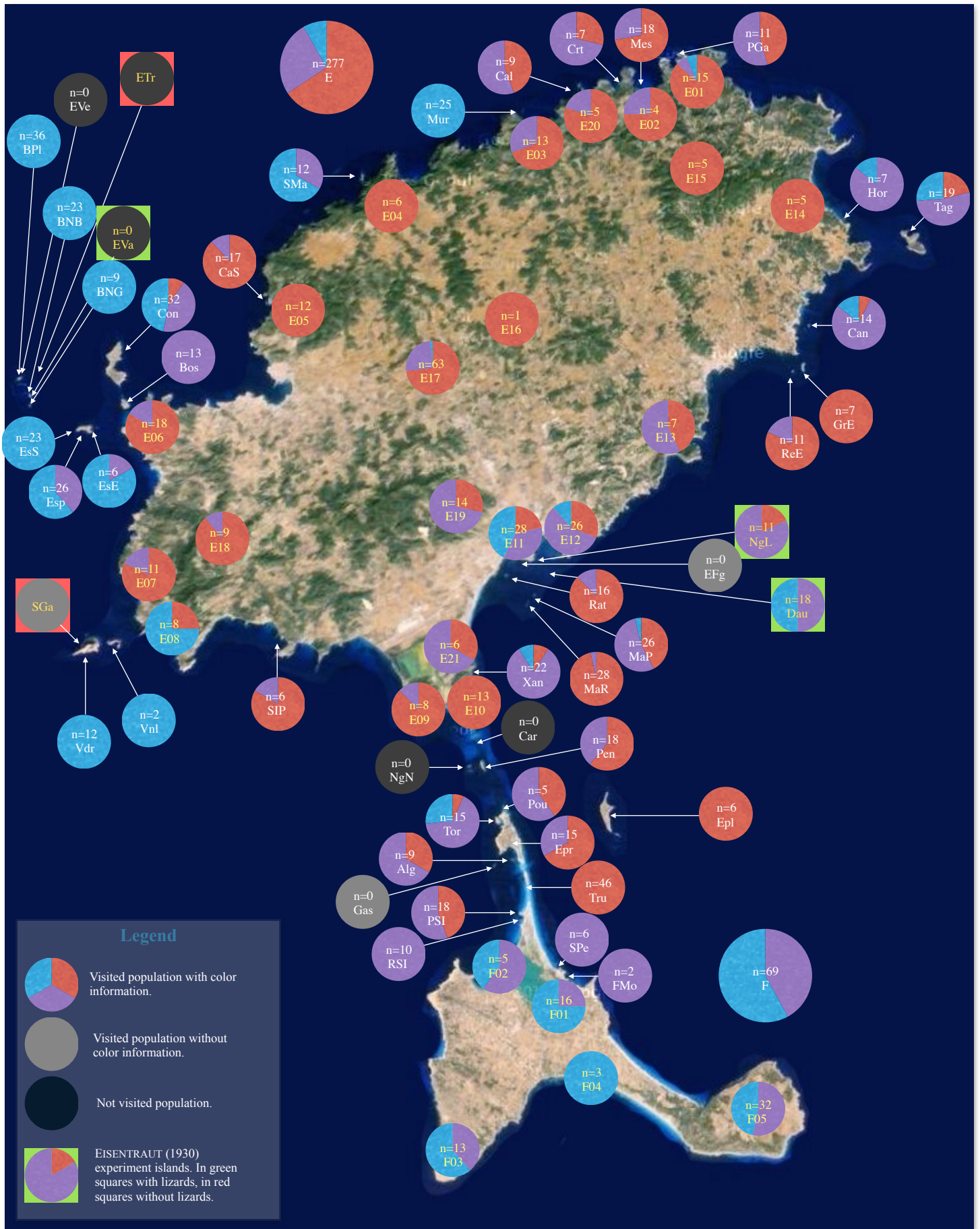


Image 92. Pityusic populations of *Podarcis pityusensis*, with data gathered so far (for details see table 2).

Abr	Population	Specimens	Red	Mixed	Blue	Abr	Population	Specimens	Red	Mixed	Blue
E	Ibiza	188,79,29	182	72	23	EFg	Escui de Figueretes				
PGa	Punta Galera	4,6,1	5	6		NgL	Negra Llevant	8,4,0	2	9	
Mes	Sa Mesquida	9,9,0	13	5		Dau	Dau Gran	8,11,0		9	9
Crt	Canaret	6,1,0	2	5		ReE	Redona de Santa Eulària	7,5,0	9	2	
Cal	Calders	7,2,0	4	5		GrE	Grossa de Santa Eulària	6,2,0	7		
Mur	Murada	14,12,0			25	Can	Es Canar	10,5,0	1	11	2
SMA	Ses Margalides	11,21,1		4	8	Tag	Tagomago	10,7,3	4	10	5
CaS	S'Illeta de Cala Salada	13,3,1	15	2		Hor	S'Hort	4,3,0		6	1
EVe	Escull Vermell					Car	Caragoler				
BPl	Bleda Plana	20,12,5			36	Pen	Penjats	8,12,0	11	7	
BNB	Bleda Na Bosc	12,8,3			23	NgN	Negra Norte	1,0,0			
EVa	Es Vaixell					Pou	Pou	2,4,0	2	3	
BNG	Bleda Na Gorra	5,5,0			9	Epr	Espalmador	15,5,1	10	5	
Con	Conillera	20,10,3	3	14	15	Tor	Sa Torreta	8,6,1	1	10	4
Bos	Bosc de Conillera	4,6,3		13		Alg	S'Alga	7,2,0	3	6	
EsS	S'Espardell de S'Espartar	16,9,0			23	Epl	Espardell	6,3,0	6		
Esp	S'Espartar	14,16,0		10	16	Gas	Gastaví	3,0,0			
EsE	Escui de S'Espartar	4,2,0		1	5	Tru	Trucadors - Es Ministre	39,34,12	46		
Vdr	Es Vedrà	10,7,1			12	F	Formentera	43,32,8		29	40
Vnl	Vedranell	2,1,0			2	PSI	Pouet de Ses Illetes	9,9,1	8	10	
SIP	Ses Illetes de Purroig	6,0,0	5	1		RSI	Redona de Ses Illetes	7,3,0		10	
Xan	Illa de la Xanga (Sal Rossa)	13,9,0	2	18	2	SPe	Ses Perreres	6,0,0		6	
MaR	Malví Rodó (South)	19,10,0	27	1		FMo	Fonoll Mori	2,0,0		2	
MaP	Malví Pla (North)	16,11,0	11	14	1	ETr	Escull Tramuntana	no lizards			
Rat	Rates	11,6,1	14	2		SGa	Sa Galera	no lizards			

Table 2. Populations of *Podarcis pityusensis*, with number of specimens in our database and belly color distribution.

Conclusion

We consider this 2016 spring trip to Ibiza as quite successful. We were able to reduce the black and gray dots on the map in image 92 to respectively 5 and 2. However, from some of the sampled populations we still need more samples. Our work will therefore continue, and for drawing final conclusions it is still too early.

Despite of the fact that we were not able to revisit Ses Margalides, a small setback, the data gathered on Murada, Bleda Plana, Bleda Na Bosc, S'Espardell de S'Espartar and Vedranell gave us a broader view on the similarities and differences between blue bellied populations. To visualize this, we compiled table 3 from the data inside our database.

Disclaimer: No images were hurt by the use of Photoshop, at least not of the lizards. This is contrary what we often experience when looking at the lizard coloration of images published in recent books.

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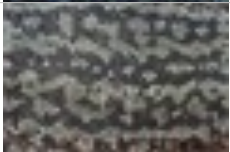


	Ventral coloration		Dorsal coloration	
	darkest	lightest	darkest	most greenish
Bleda Plana 				
Bleda Na Bosc 				
Bleda Na Gorra 				
Murada 				
S'Espardell de S'Espartar 				
Espartar 				
Escui de S'Espartar 				
Vedra 				
Vedranell 				
Ses Margalides 				
Formentera 				

Table 3. Ventral and dorsal coloration comparison between 11 populations with the highest occurrence of blue ventral coloration. For each population only adult blue bellied lizards were considered, lizards with a mixed belly coloration and juveniles were excluded. In the darkest dorsal coloration column, the darkest, less green tones showing lizard was chosen.