

## **Distribution and Habitats of the Common Lizard in Baden Württemberg**

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The common lizard was not specially recorded in Baden Württemberg so data are insufficient from some regions. Altogether 2496 records concerning 1737 places are documented which means its presence in 45 % of the TK25 quarter grids. The common lizard occurs nearly all over the country avoiding only the dry-warm areas. Core areas of distribution are the middle and upper zone of the mountainous parts, in forest regions and in the bog areas of "Oberschwaben" and the "Allgäu". Also very locally, at the upper Rhine for example populations exist also in the lower warm zones, but there in wet forests at river banks.

50% of the records are from open habitats like bogs, wet and dry meadows, heathland, verges of roads, railroads or water bodies, gravel pits or quarries. Also in forest areas it occurs at open sites like clearings, forest roads and forest edges but rarely in the close forest itself. There is no important change in habitat preference in the different altitude zones but a tendency to tolerate more shadow in lower altitudes below 300 m and to prefer open habitats above 1000 m.

The habitats are mostly characterised by constant high moisture of the soil and at least partly dry basking places. Thus all sorts of bogs and wet meadows but also banks of rivers, creeks, ditches and ponds are inhabited. But also more dry sites like Juniper heathland or semi dry grasslands and rocky slopes can be colonized by the species. Thus the species seems to be rather opportunistic as far as habitats are concerned, colonizing wet meadows at the "Bodensee Region" where such habitats are rather frequent but live in more dry heathlands at the "Schwäbische Alp" where this type of open habitat is most common.

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