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# A concolor morph in *Podarcis peloponnesiacus* (Bibron & Bory, 1833) from Lake Doxa in Corinthia, Greece

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## RESUM

Les espècies de *Podarcis* són conegudes pel seu polimorfisme. I en alguns casos, s'han observat dissenys de coloració concolor en diferents espècies d'aquest gènere. En aquesta nota es presenta un cas de coloració concolor per a l'espècie endèmica de la península del Peloponès *P. peloponnesiacus*, observada al llac Doxa (Corintia, Grècia).

**PARAULES CLAU:** *Podarcis peloponnesiacus*; concolor; coloració; forma; Peloponès.

## ABSTRACT

*Podarcis* species are well known for their polymorphism and in some cases a concolor morphs hads been observed in many species. This note presents a concolor morph of the endemic *P. peloponnesiacus* from the Peloponnese Peninsula in Lake Doxa, Corinthia, Greece.

**KEY WORDS:** *Podarcis peloponnesiacus*; concolor; coloration; morph; Peloponnese.

Concolor morph is a phase in which individuals have no light or dark dorsal markings (ARNOLD *et al.,* 2007), and usually a uniform color is present on the dorsal area. This is observed in many species of the genus *Podarcis*, as are *P. siculus* (KRAMER, 1941), *P. carbonelli* (SA-SOUSA and HARRIS, 2002), *P. tiliguerta* (BRUSCHI *et al.,* 2006), *P. wagleriana* (LO CASCIO and PASTA, 2006), *P. bocagei* (GALAN and VAZQUEZ, 2010), *P. liolepis* (VAN DEN BERG, 2011) and *P. ionicus* (JABLONSKI and CHRISTOPHORYOVA, 2016).

The endemic Peloponnese Wall Lizard *Podarcis peloponnesiacus* is spread at the Peloponnese Peninsula, the island of Psili in the Gulf of Argolis (CHONDROPOULOS 1986) and on the island of Elafonissos (BROGGI, 2016). Recently there has been recorded an individual out of the Peloponnese region, in Nikaia, Attica region (HEDMAN *et al.,* 2016). According the literature this species is differentiated into 3 subspecies, of which the nominate subspecies *P. p. peloponnesiacus* (BIBRON and BORY, 1833) ranges at the prefectures of Ilia (south part), Arcadia, Messinia, Laconia, *P. p. lais* (BUCHHOLZ, 1960) from Ilia (north part), Achaia, Corinthia and *P. p. thais* (BUCHHOLZ, 1960) ranges at the prefecture of Argolida and

the Argosaronic islands (CHONDROPOULOS, 1986). It is found from sea-level up to 1.500 m and can be seen in all the habitat types that surround the Peloponnese Peninsula (VALAKOS *et al.,* 2008).

Peloponnese Wall Lizard has a snout-vent length of up to 8.5 cm and the tail can be twice as long (VALAKOS *et al.,* 2008). Males are bigger than females and the dorsum has striped marks on both sexes. Females have brown color with yellowish dorsolateral stripes from the neck until the tail base and the males are more colourful, with greenish-brown backs and blue spots between the flanks and the front legs (VALAKOS *et al.,* 2008), (Fig. 1). In the breeding season male's coloration is more intense and an orange color is presented on the neck and abdominal area.

In a field trip on 23rd September 2017, there was a concolor morph recorded of *Podarcis peloponnesiacus* at Lake Doxa at Feneos mountain (37.9310°N 22.2830°E; WGS 84). This individual was found basking at 15:30 h near the lake, at the area where it seemed to inhabit and hiding in two small holes on a sidehill. The individual was initially observed moving in the biotope and then was captured, photographed and released in the same spot.

The male specimen had an orange color at the subocular and supralabians scales which began from the rostral scale (Fig. 2A). The rest of the scales on the head had an olive-green uniform color similar to the rest of the body. The dorsal pattern was olive-green and had a continuous color until the tail end (Fig. 2B). On the neck, two pale yellow lines started and faded at their end - a few centimeters from the front legs. The abdomen was orange as well as the neck and the tail, just like a usual male colouration phenotype during breeding season (Fig. 2C). Only a small part of the collar remained white. In the foot, the color was orange. In the outer ventral scales were light blue along the body on both sides (Fig. 2D) and the femoral pores had a dark brown color. No measurement data were collected.

It was found at 877m elevation very close to the lake, in an open meadow surrounded by *Platanus orientalis* and a small stream that leaded to the lake. Around the biotope started a dense forest of *Abies cephalonica*. In the habitat there were several stones, which were inhabited by other specimens of the species, mostly females and all of them with normal colouration. Two species of the genus *Podarcis muralis* (Laurenti, 1768), *Podarcis ionicus* (Lehrs, 1902) and several Balkan frogs *Pelophylax kurtmuelleri* (Gayda, 1940) were observed at the same place. In a previous visit of the area, at the same site a *Natrix tessellata* (Laurenti, 1768) and *Hierophis gemonensis* (Laurenti, 1768) were recorded.

One more unpublished observation of a concolor *P. peloponnesiacus* has been reported in Southeast Peloponnese at the prefecture of Laconia near the Molai village (36.8043°N 22.8557°E; WGS 84) on March 2004 by Birgit and Peter Oefinger (*pers. comm.*) photo available on www.bpo-natura.de . Together with this note, this is the second known observation of a concolor morph of the species. Although, Peloponnese Peninsula has been visited many times by field herpetologists and naturalists, no other data are available about a concolor morph. Even if this morph is more common in many species of the genus, it seems to be very rare for the *P. peloponnesiacus.*

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**Figure 1.** - A pair of *Podarcis peloponnesiacus*, basking in the same rock, on Prefecture of Corinthia, (male on the left and female on the right). Photo: G. Nanos.

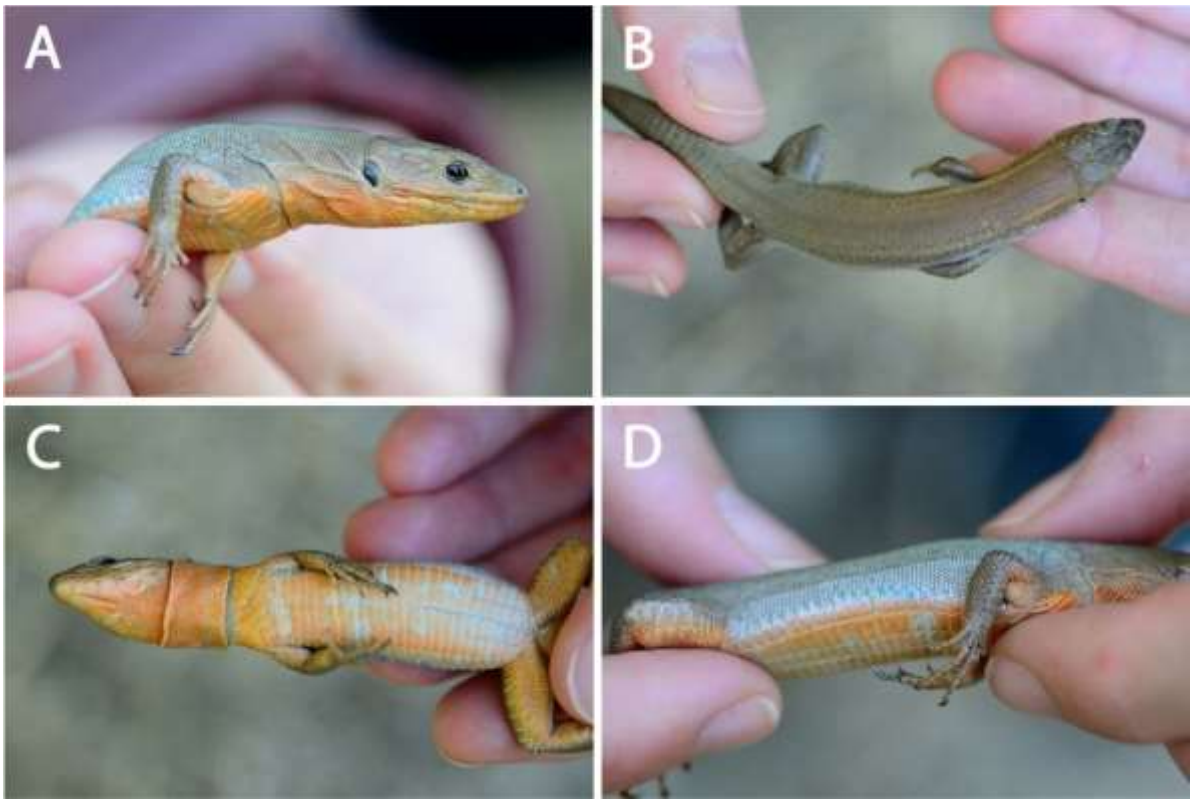


**Figure 2.** - (A) Orange color in the subocular and supralabial scales; (B) Dorsolateral concolor pattern; (C) Scales from the ventral part; (D) Light blue in the outer ventral scales. Photos: E. Tzoras.

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