

EUROLIZARDS

Podarcis virescens - Geniez's Wall Lizard

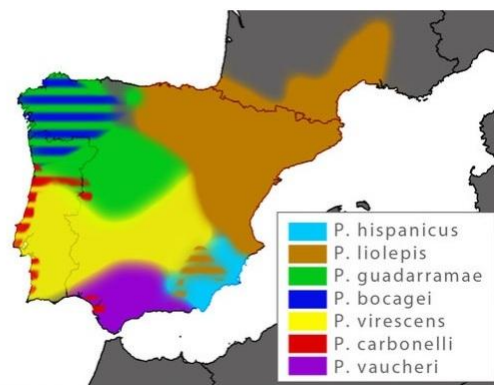


Male displaying its yellow-orange underside and blue outer ventral scales: P / Monchique (Algarve), 17.04.2017

Podarcis virescens is another 'generalist' in the *Podarcis hispanicus* group. In the Sierra de Cazorta (Jaén) it inhabits rocky mountain areas but it was also able to populate the endless agricultural plains of Castilla-La Mancha where it can be found on bridges or buildings - A quite successful species, regarding its wide distribution area from the Portuguese Atlantic Coast to the Baetic System.

Geniez' Wall Lizard is a little beauty with males having yellow undersides, prominent blue outer ventral scales and a greenish glance on the back. It can be distinguished from its neighbouring species by the following characters:

- *Podarcis carbonelli* is smaller, has a shorter snout and frequently shows green flanks but not green backs.
- *Podarcis guadarramae* has no blue outer ventral scales and no yellow undersides.
- *Podarcis liolepis* has no yellow underside of the tale and in its southern populations, it frequently shows a dark vertebral line which lacks at *Podarcis virescens*.
- *Podarcis hispanicus* often shows a distinct stripe pattern and has no blue outer ventral scales.
- Distinguishing between *Podarcis vaucheri* and *Podarcis virescens* may be challenging. Note that the contact zone between those two species is poorly known.



The distribution area of *Podarcis virescens* adjoins five other Iberian Wall Lizard species.



Male with yellow underside: P / Sines (Alentejo), 19.04.2017



Male: P / Monchique (Algarve), 16.04.2017 - Note the greenish back and the absence of a vertebral line.



Female: E / Sierra de Cazorta, 30.10.2017 - Females may show continuous light dorsolateral lines or rows of light dots, instead.



Habitat of *Podarcis virescens* and *Alavroides marchi*: F / Sierra de Cazorta 30.10.2017

