

# EUROLIZARDS

## Podarcis vaucheri - Vaucher's Wall Lizard



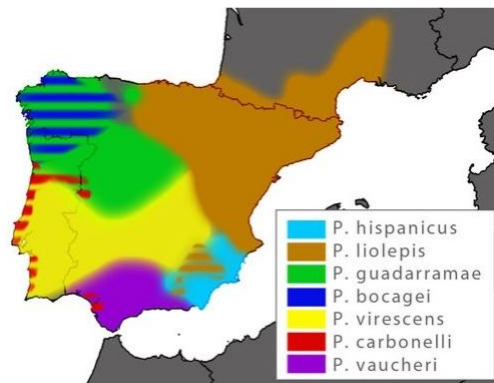
Male with green back: E / Los Alcornocales (Cádiz), 17.03.2012

*Podarcis vaucheri* is widespread in Northern Africa and Andalusia and frequently the only Wall Lizard in this area. Anyhow, sometimes it may be a confusing species: In literature, it is often described as a lizard with green backs and grey heads. This seems to apply only for some populations, indeed. But actually, this species is quite variable in pattern. In particular in eastern Andalusia there are populations with no green colours at all. These lizards just don't care what they are expected to be.

As a generalist, this well climbing lizard populates a wide range of habitats. It occurs from sea level (Cádiz) to over 2000 m (Sierra Nevada Ski Resort).

*Podarcis vaucheri* is a robust big-headed Iberian Wall Lizard with pointed snouts which makes the head shape appear 'triangular'. It frequently shows a broad dark lateral stripe but no vertebral line. It has contact zones with the following species:

- *Podarcis hispanicus* is smaller and has a distinct stripe pattern with a clear vertebral line.
- *Podarcis carbonelli* is smaller and has shorter snouts.
- In the poorly known contact zone of *Podarcis virescens* and *Podarcis vaucheri*, identification may be challenging but *Podarcis vaucheri*'s triangular head shape and the dark lateral stripe could help.
- At the northern slopes of Sierra Nevada, *Podarcis liolepis* and *Podarcis vaucheri* (and also *Podarcis hispanicus*) seem to have a contact zone. Identification may be tricky there and interbreeding cannot be excluded.



Distribution area of *Podarcis vaucheri* and its neighbouring species.



Male: E / Sierra Mágina (Jaén), 31.10.2017 - Note the greenish back and the dark flanks.



Male: E / Sierra Nevada Ski Center (Granada), 17.11.2016 - In Sierra Nevada, these lizards occur in altitudes over 2000 m.



Male with yellow underside: E / Puerto de la Ragua (Granada), 28.10.2017.



Sierra Mágina (Jaén): In this isolated mountain range, *Podarcis vaucheri* occurs at altitudes up to 2000 m.

  
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