



Iberolacerta horvathi - Horvath's Rock Lizard



Adult: AU / Carinthia, 17.07.2010 - Like other Iberolacertas, Horvath's Rock Lizard may be quite approachable.

Horvath's Rock Lizard populates an isolated range in the South-Eastern Alps / Northern Dinaric Mountains. The fact that its closest relatives are the Pyrenean Rock Lizard species is noteworthy: It may indicate that the genus Iberolacerta had been more widespread in the past but is currently pushed to some local refugia.

Although *Iberolacerta horvathi* lives in montane habitats up to 2000 meters in south of its range, it may not be regarded as a high altitude species. This also suggests that *Iberolacerta* species may not be generally restricted to high-altitude mountain habitats, unless they are forced by competitive pressure (e.g. by *Podarcis* species which have benefited from the current postglacial warm climate).

Within its distribution area, *Iberolacerta horvathi* co-occurs with the following species:

- [Podarcis muralis](#) frequently shows a spotted or orange throat whereas *Iberolacerta horvathi* has a white unspotted throat. The latter one can be identified by the characteristic tail segments, which are alternately broad and narrow and it has a more pointed snout than *Podarcis muralis*.
- [Zootoca vivipara](#) has a shorter snout and a less elongated body than the *Iberolacerta horvathi*.



The distribution range of *Iberolacerta horvathi* covers areas in Austria, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia.



I / Fusine, 14.07.2010 - Note the greenish back and dark brown flanks.



Juvenile: SLO / Predil, 09.07.2010 - Note the slightly greenish tail.



The Lago di Fusine (Italy): Habitat of *Iberolacerta horvathi* and *Zootoca vivipara*.


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