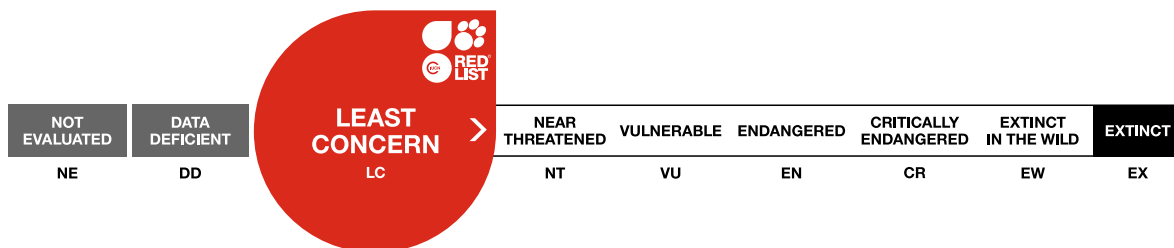


## *Podarcis virescens*, Geniez's Wall Lizard

Assessment by: Bowles, P.



View on [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)

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## Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Squamata	Lacertidae

**Scientific Name:** *Podarcis virescens* Geniez, Sá-Sousa, Guillaume, Cluchier & Crochet, 2014

### Common Name(s):

- English: Geniez's Wall Lizard

### Taxonomic Source(s):

Uetz, P., Freed, P. and Hošek, J. (eds). 2021. The Reptile Database. 22 May 2021. Available at: <http://www.reptile-database.org>. (Accessed: 9 July 2021).

Geniez, P., Sá-Sousa, P., Guillaume, C.P., Cluchier, A. and Crochet, P.A. 2014. Systematics of the *Podarcis hispanicus* complex (Sauria, Lacertidae) III: valid nomina of the western and central Iberian forms. *Zootaxa* 3794: 1-51. doi: 10.11646/zootaxa.3794.1.1.

### Taxonomic Notes:

In a partial revision of the *Podarcis hispanicus* complex Geniez *et al.* (2014) recognised the previously identified candidate species "*Podarcis hispanicus* type 2" as the distinct species *Podarcis virescens* on both genetic and morphological grounds, and this arrangement was accepted by Speybroeck *et al.* (2016, 2020).

## Assessment Information

**Red List Category & Criteria:** Least Concern [ver 3.1](#)

**Year Published:** 2024

**Date Assessed:** August 4, 2022

### Justification:

Geniez's Wall Lizard is endemic to Europe, where it occurs in mainland Spain and Portugal. It is assessed as Least Concern on the basis that it is widespread and common, it exhibits a preference for anthropogenic habitats, and is subject to no widespread threats,

## Geographic Range

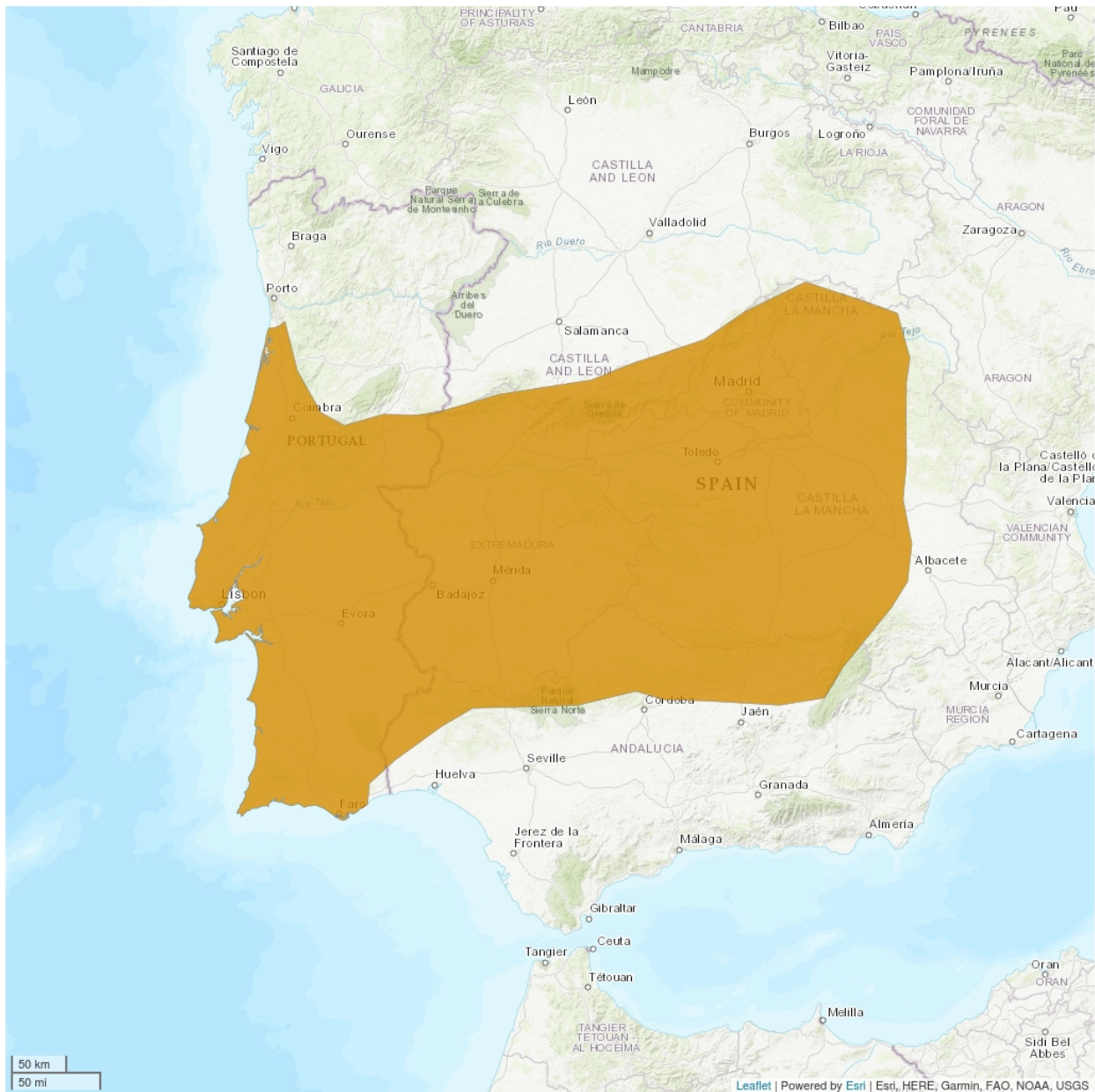
### Range Description:

This species is widely distributed in the plains and plateaus of south-central Spain and in central and western Portugal, with a southern range limit along the whole Algarve coast in Portugal and the south bank of the Tagus River Valley in Spain, and north to Espinho (Geniez *et al.* 2014).

### Country Occurrence:

**Native, Extant (resident):** Portugal (Portugal (mainland)); Spain (Spain (mainland))

# Distribution Map

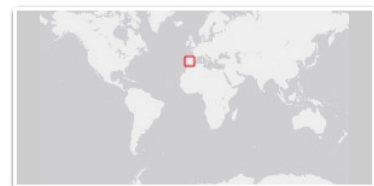
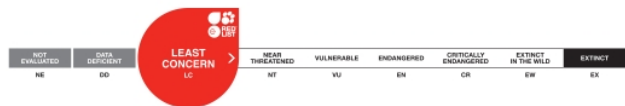


## Legend

■ EXTANT (RESIDENT)

## Compiled by:

European Red List, EC and IUCN 2023



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.



## Population

Especially in drier areas subpopulations are often small (Speybroeck *et al.* 2016) and the species is absent from substantial parts of its overall range, although some gene flow may occur between subpopulations (M.A. Carretero pers. comm. October 2022). It can, however, be commonly observed, especially where older or disused structures (such as churches and fortifications) are present (Speybroeck *et al.* 2016).

**Current Population Trend:** Unknown

## Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species most commonly occurs in open, agricultural landscapes in plains and on plateaus (Geniez *et al.* 2014). It is typically found in association with human habitations and structures, but in more natural areas it favours woody hills with rocky outcrops and mountain massifs (Geniez *et al.* 2014). Within the wide range of habitats it occupies it exhibits a "strict dependency" on rocky or other hard substrates with relief, such as walls and outcrops, and often favours "relatively humid situations" (Geniez *et al.* 2014). It is typically scansorial, but arboreal behaviour has been reported and climbing up to 1 m on tree trunks appears common in at least one subpopulation in Portuguese wood pasture (Caeiro-Dias 2021).

**Systems:** Terrestrial

## Use and Trade (see Appendix for additional information)

There is no significant use of or trade in this species.

## Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

The larger Italian Wall Lizard (*Podarcis siculus*) has been introduced into part of this species' range, and a detailed ecological study of the two species in Lisbon suggests that - despite some differences in microhabitat preference - the invasive species has resulted in spatial segregation and, where the Italian Wall Lizard is longest-established, complete competitive exclusion (Ribeiro and Sá-Sousa 2018). This is supported by experimental work indicating that the larger species can more aggressively and efficiently compete for food (Damas-Moreira *et al.* 2020). In Lisbon the invasive species has so far failed to expand beyond the introduction site in the 20 years since its introduction (Ribeiro and Sá-Sousa 2018), but has the potential to represent a localised threat in this and other areas to which it has been introduced.

## Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

This species occurs within the Natura 2000 protected area network. No particular conservation measures are required at present.

## Credits

**Assessor(s):** Bowles, P.

**Reviewer(s):** Carretero, M., Cogălniceanu, D., Corti, C., Crnobrnja-Isailović, J., Crochet, P.-A., Doronin, I.V., Halpern, B., Jablonski, D., Jelić, D., Joger, U., Kirschey, T., Lymberakis, P., Maletzky, A., Martínez-Freiría, F., Mebert, K., Mizsei, E., Razzetti, E., Romano, A., Salvi, D., Speybroeck, J. & Stănescu, F.

**Contributor(s):** Carretero, M.

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Geniez, P., Sá-Sousa, P., Guillaume, C.P., Cluchier, A. and Crochet, P.A. 2014. Systematics of the *Podarcis hispanicus* complex (Sauria, Lacertidae) III: valid nomina of the western and central Iberian forms. *Zootaxa* 3794: 1-51. doi: 10.11646/zootaxa.3794.1.1.

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Ribeiro, R. and Sá-Sousa, P. 2018. Where to live in Lisbon: urban habitat used by the introduced Italian wall lizard (*Podarcis siculus*). *Basic and Applied Herpetology* 32: 57-70.

Speybroeck, J., Beukema, W., Bok, B., and van der Woort, J. 2016. *Field Guide to the Amphibians & Reptiles of Britain and Europe*. Bloomsbury, London.

Speybroeck, J., Beukema, W., Dufresnes, C., Fritz, U., Jablonski, D., Lymberakis, P., Martínez-Solano, I., Razzetti, E., Vamberger, M., Vences, M., Vörös, J., Crochet, P.-A. 2020. Species list of the European herpetofauna – update by the Taxonomic Committee of the Societas Europaea Herpetologica. *Amphibia-Reptilia* 41: 139-189.

## Citation

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## External Resources

For [Supplementary Material](#), and for [Images and External Links to Additional Information](#), please see the Red List website.

# Appendix

## Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
1. Forest -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	No
4. Grassland -> 4.4. Grassland - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	No
6. Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	-	-	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	Resident	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.2. Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	Resident	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	Resident	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.5. Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	Resident	Suitable	No

## Threats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity
8. Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases -> 8.1. Invasive non-native/alien species/diseases -> 8.1.2. Named species (Podarcis siculus)	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, significant declines
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.3. Indirect species effects -> 2.3.2. Competition	

## Conservation Actions in Place

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Conservation Action in Place
In-place land/water protection
Occurs in at least one protected area: Yes

## Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Continuing decline in area of occupancy (AOO): Unknown
Extreme fluctuations in area of occupancy (AOO): No
Continuing decline in extent of occurrence (EOO): Unknown
Extreme fluctuations in extent of occurrence (EOO): No

<b>Distribution</b>
Continuing decline in number of locations: Unknown
Extreme fluctuations in the number of locations: No



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