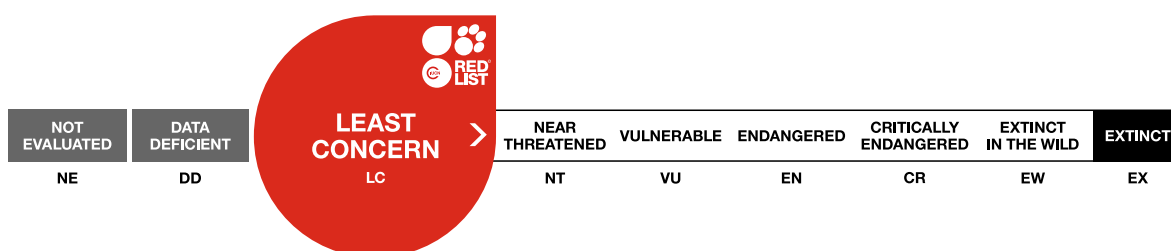


## *Podarcis gaigeae*, Skyros Wall Lizard

Assessment by: Bowles, P.



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## Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Squamata	Lacertidae

**Scientific Name:** *Podarcis gaigeae* (Werner, 1930)

### Synonym(s):

- *Lacerta taurica* ssp. *gaigeae* Werner, 1930
- *Podarcis erhardii* ssp. *gaigeae* (Werner, 1930)
- *Podarcis milensis* ssp. *gaigeae* (Werner, 1930)
- *Podarcis taurica* ssp. *gaigeae* (Werner, 1930)

### Common Name(s):

- English: Skyros Wall Lizard
- Greek, Modern (1453-): Σαύρα της Σκύρου

### 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).

## Assessment Information

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

**Year Published:** 2024

**Date Assessed:** October 7, 2022

### Justification:

This species is endemic to Europe, where it is restricted to the Skyros Archipelago and Piperi Island in Greece. Its estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) is 1,014 km<sup>2</sup>, however no major threats have been identified and although it may be subject to reductions in density in areas where cats or other invasive predators are present, no major threats exist or are likely to become active in the near future that could drive this species to extinction. Therefore, the species is assessed as Least Concern.

### Previously Published Red List Assessments

[2009 – Vulnerable \(VU\)](#)

2006 – Vulnerable (VU)

## Geographic Range

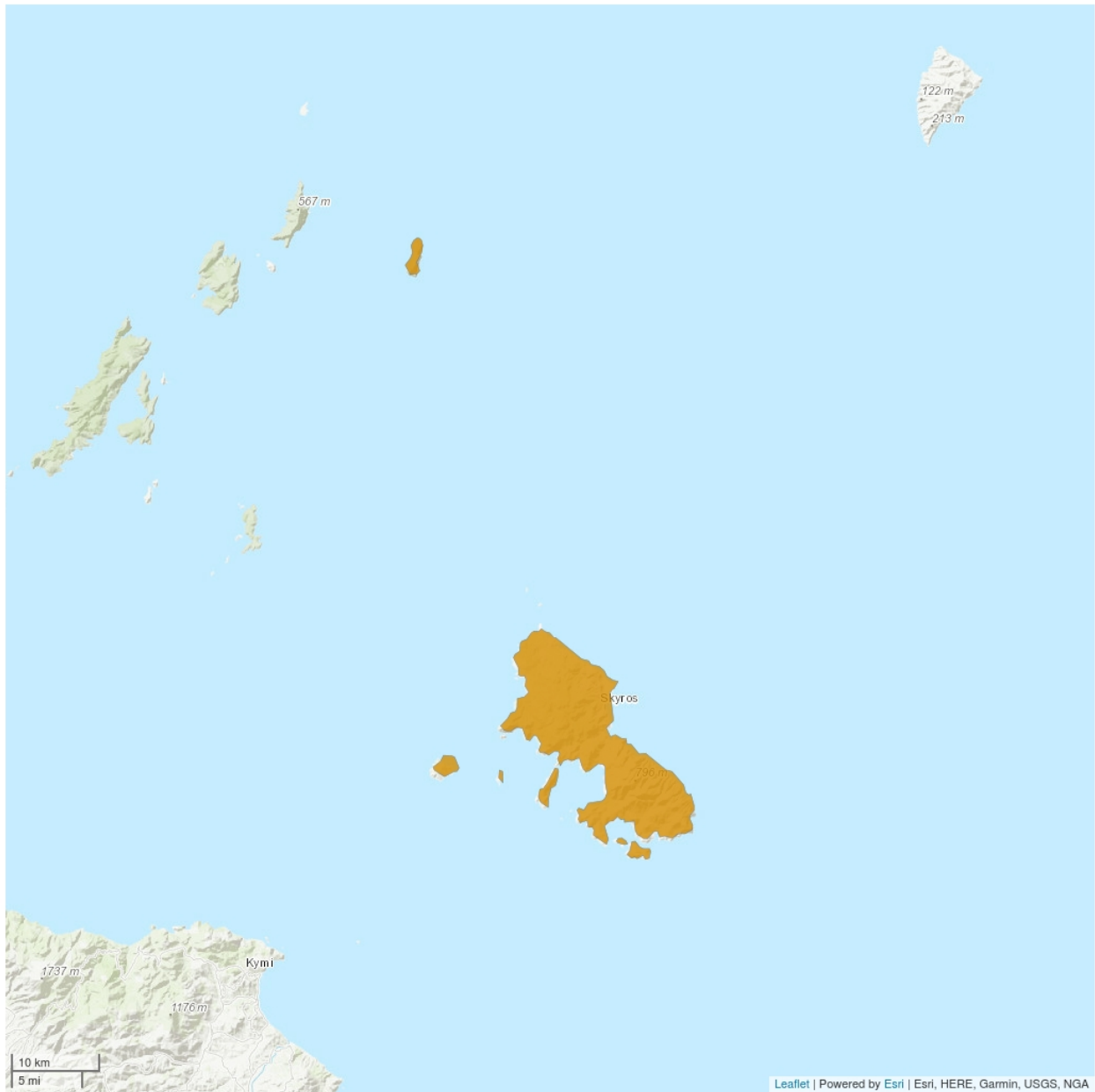
### Range Description:

This species is endemic to Greece where it occurs in the Skyros Archipelago and on Piperi Island in the northern Sporades Islands of the Aegean Sea. It is a lowland species.

**Country Occurrence:**

**Native, Extant (resident):** Greece (East Aegean Is.)

# Distribution Map

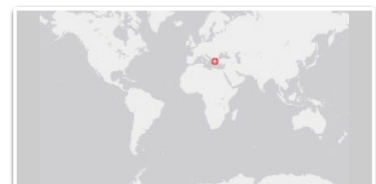
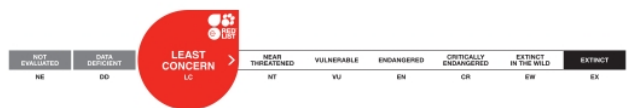


## Legend

■ 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

It is a common species, and appears to be most abundant in well-vegetated habitats (Valakos *et al.* 2008, Speybroeck *et al.* 2016).

**Current Population Trend:** Stable

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

The species is found in bushy vegetation, including moist valleys and gardens, but also in "more barren" and semi-dunal ecosystems (Valakos *et al.* 2008, Speybroeck *et al.* 2016). It can persist in bare areas on some of the smaller islands, including "seeming inhospitable" islets where the only suitable refuges are thorny shrubs (Speybroeck *et al.* 2016), but is also abundant in lush areas, including towns and gardens in urban areas. It is principally insectivorous, but will also feed on plant matter, conspecifics (Pafilis *et al.* 2009, Speybroeck *et al.* 2016), or fruits (Brock *et al.* 2014). On Piperi and some other islets, it congregates around Eleanora's Falcon nests, feeding on bird faeces for their mineral content as well as on insects attracted to this resource (Valakos *et al.* 2008, Pafilis *et al.* 2011, Speybroeck *et al.* 2016).

It is an egg-laying species, and females may lay several clutches of one to three eggs (Pafilis *et al.* 2011, Speybroeck *et al.* 2016). On some small islands cases of gigantism in this species have been recorded (Pafilis *et al.* 2011).

**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)

Although the species has a restricted range, there appear to be no major threats at present. It is possible that the potential introduction of predators (feral animals) could threaten subpopulations on some of the islands. Cats occur on Skyros. In a related species, *Podarcis erhardii*, lizard densities were negatively correlated with cat density: in sites where cats were absent or occurred at low density lizards were more than twice as high as those in sites where cats were present (Li *et al.* 2014). ). Skyros has also a long history of overgrazing by goats and sheep. A study on Skyros Island and surrounding islets indicated grazing as a potential threat *P. gaigeae* populations. Grazing, negatively impacts arthropod communities and thus lizards' food availability, body condition and population densities (Pafilis *et al.* 2013). The effects of grazing are more severe on islet communities.

## Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

Its range is effectively protected on Piperi Island, as there is a Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*) population present, and access to the island is restricted.

## Credits

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

**Reviewer(s):** Lymberakis, P., Sagonas, K., Strachinis, I., 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., Maletzky, A., Martínez-Freiría, F., Mebert, K., Mizsei, E., Razzetti, E., Romano, A., Salvi, D., Speybroeck, J. & Stănescu, F.

**Contributor(s):** Lymberakis, P., Sagonas, K. & Strachinis, I.

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

Valakos, E.D., Pafilis, P., Sotiropoulos, K., Lymberakis, P., Maragou, P. and Foufopoulos, J. 2008. *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Greece*. Chimaira Editions, Frankfurt.

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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?
3. Shrubland -> 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	Resident	Suitable	Yes
6. Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	-	-	-
12. Marine Intertidal -> 12.1. Marine Intertidal - Rocky Shoreline	Resident	Suitable	No
13. Marine Coastal/Supratidal -> 13.1. Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Sea Cliffs and Rocky Offshore Islands	Resident	Suitable	No
13. Marine Coastal/Supratidal -> 13.3. Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Sand Dunes	Resident	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	Resident	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.5. Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	Resident	Suitable	-

### Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.3. Livestock farming & ranching -> 2.3.2. Small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	Future	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation	
7. Natural system modifications -> 7.1. Fire & fire suppression -> 7.1.1. Increase in fire frequency/intensity	Future	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality	
8. Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases -> 8.1. Invasive non-native/alien species/diseases -> 8.1.1. Unspecified species	Future	Unknown	Unknown
8. Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases -> 8.2. Problematic native species/diseases -> 8.2.2. Named species (Felis catus)	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality	

### Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Action in Place
In-place land/water protection

<b>Conservation Action in Place</b>
Occurs in at least one protected area: Yes

## Additional Data Fields

<b>Distribution</b>
Continuing decline in area of occupancy (AOO): Unknown
Extreme fluctuations in area of occupancy (AOO): No
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km <sup>2</sup> ): 1014
Continuing decline in extent of occurrence (EOO): Unknown
Extreme fluctuations in extent of occurrence (EOO): No
Continuing decline in number of locations: Unknown
Extreme fluctuations in the number of locations: No
<b>Population</b>
Continuing decline of mature individuals: No
Extreme fluctuations: No
Population severely fragmented: No
All individuals in one subpopulation: No
<b>Habitats and Ecology</b>
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Unknown

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