

# Lacerta viridis

**Taxonomic Authority:** (Laurenti, 1768)

**Synonyms:**

**Region:** 3

**Common Names:**

Green Lizard                              English  
Smaragdeidechse                              German  
Ramarro orientale                              Italian

**Order:** Sauria

**Family:** Lacertidae

**Notes on taxonomy:**

We follow the recent tendency to treat *Lacerta viridis* and *L. bilineata* as separate species, but this is only weakly supported by genetic data (Amann et al., 1997; Mayer and Beyerlein, 2002). The currently accepted taxonomy of the *viridis-bilineata* complex requires further research (Crochet and Dubois, 2004).

## General Information

**Biome**

Terrestrial     Freshwater     Marine

**Geographic Range of species:**

This species ranges from eastern Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, eastern Austria, and Slovenia, east to Romania, Moldova and southern Ukraine, southwards into the Balkan Peninsula in Croatia (including some Adriatic islands), Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania and Greece (including some Aegean islands, and excluding the Peloponnese). It is also present in Turkey, where it is largely distributed in the area of Marmara and along the Black Sea coastal region. The species is now extinct in Poland (Bartosz Borczyk pers. comm.). It has been introduced to Kansas in the United States. It is found from sea level up to 2,130m asl.

**Habitat and Ecology Information:**

Animals are generally encountered in bushy vegetation at woodland and field edges, within open woodlands, forested areas and shrubland, hedgerows, and in overgrown areas and cultivated land. It takes refuge in bushes and burrows. In northern Germany the species is confined to sandy open heathland habitats. The females lay five to 23 eggs in a clutch.

**Conservation Measures:**

This species is listed on Annex II of the Bern Convention, and on Annex IV of the European Union Habitat and Species Directive. It has been recorded from many protected areas. There is a need to conserve genetically isolated populations especially in the north of the species range.

**Threats:**

There appear to be no major threats to this wide ranging species. It is locally threatened in parts of its range, especially in the north, by general habitat loss, afforestation of suitable sites and predation by cats.

**Species population information:**

It can be a common species. Populations at the northern edge of the species range may be declining.

## Country Distribution

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Albania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Austria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bulgaria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Croatia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Czech Republic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Germany	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greece	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hungary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moldova	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Romania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slovakia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slovenia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turkey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ukraine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
United States of America	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serbia and Montenegro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## FAO Marine Habitats

Native - Presence Confirmed    Native - Presence Possible    Extinct    Reintroduced    Introduced

## Major Lakes

## Major Rivers

<u>Upper Level Habitat Preferences</u>		Score	<u>Lower Level Habitat Preferences</u>		Score
1.4	Forest - Temperate	1			
3.4	Shrubland - Temperate	1			
3.8	Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	1			
4.4	Grassland - Temperate	1			
11.1	Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	2			
11.2	Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	1			
11.3	Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	1			
11.4	Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	1			

## Major threats

Code	Description of threat
13	None

Past	Present	Future
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
1	Policy-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1	Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1.1	International level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2	Implementation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2.1	International level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Research actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.1	Taxonomy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.2	Population numbers and range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Habitat and site-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4	Protected areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.2	Establishment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.3	Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Utilisation of Species

Purpose/Type of Use	Subsistence	National	International	Other purpose:
Primary forms removed from the wild	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50% <25%
Source of specimens in commercial trade	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50% <25%

Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over last five years:

Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years:

CITES:

## Red Listing

Red List Assessment: Least Concern (LC)  Possibly Extinct

Red List Criteria:

Rationale for the Red List Assessment: Listed as Least Concern in view of its wide distribution, tolerance of a broad range of habitats, presumed large population, and because it is unlikely to be declining fast enough to qualify for listing in a more threatened category.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Date of Assessment: 12/17/2004

Assessor(s): Jelka Crnobrnja Isailovic, Milan Vogrin, Claudia Corti, Valentin Pérez Mellado, Paulo Sá-Sousa, Marc Cheylan, Juan Pleguezuel

Notes on Red listing:

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