

## Podarcis sicula

**Taxonomic Authority:** (Rafinesque, 1810)

**Synonyms:**

**Region:** 3

**Common Names:**

Lagartija Italiana	Spanish
Italian Wall Lizard	English
Ruineneidechse	German
lucertola campestre	Italian

**Order:** Sauria

**Family:** Lacertidae

**Notes on taxonomy:** This species is sometimes called *Podarcis siculus*, rather than *P. sicula*, on the basis that the generic name *Podarcis* is masculine (Böhme 1997). However, others consider the name to be feminine, a position that we are following here (Montori and Lorente 2005). It is possible that this is a complex of several species (Oliverio et al. 1998, 2000), but the differences noted could represent intraspecific variation (Capula and Ceccarelli 2003).

### General Information

**Biome**

Terrestrial  Freshwater  Marine

**Geographic Range of species:**

This species ranges throughout Italy south of the Alps, including on Sicily, Sardinia, and many other islands in the Tyrrhenian Sea, in extreme southern Switzerland, Corsica (France), and along the Adriatic coastal area from southwestern Slovenia, through western and southern Croatia and extreme southern Bosnia-Herzegovina to Montenegro (Serbia and Montenegro). It also occurs as isolated introduced populations in southern France, the Iberian peninsula (Spain and Portugal), Menorca in the Balearic Islands (Spain), on both sides of the Bosphorus in Turkey, Ile La Galite (Tunisia), and Isola di Lampedusa (Italy). It has been introduced to a number of sites in the United States, and may have been introduced to Libya and Tunisia. It ranges from sea level up to 2,000m asl.

**Habitat and Ecology Information:**

It is found in grassy areas, roadside verges, hedgerows, scrubland, woodland edges, inside pine plantations, vineyards, orchards, meadows, coastal dunes, parkland, urban areas, and on stone walls and buildings. It is an egg-laying species.

**Conservation Measures:**

It is listed on Annex II of the Bern Convention and is protected by national legislation in a number of its range states. It is presumed to occur in many protected areas.

**Threats:**

There are no major threats to this adaptable species. Localised or insular populations may be vulnerable by predation by cats or overcollection of animals. In general, this is considered to be a successful invasive species that can displace native lizard populations.

**Species population information:**

It is a common species which may be increasing. In some places it is considered to be an aggressive, invasive species.

### Country Distribution

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<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"/>
France	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Italy	<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"/>
Spain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Switzerland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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

### Upper Level Habitat Preferences

	Score
1.4 Forest - Temperate	1
3.4 Shrubland - Temperate	1
3.8 Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	1

### Lower Level Habitat Preferences

Score

4.4	Grassland - Temperate	1
6	Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	1
10.1	Coastline - Rocky Shores (includes rocky offshore islands and sea cliffs)	1
10.2	Coastline - Sand, Shingle or Pebble Shores (incl. sand bars, spits, sandy islets, dune systems)	1
11.1	Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	1
11.2	Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	1
11.3	Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	1
11.4	Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	1
11.5	Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	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"/>
1.2.1.2	National 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"/>
1.2.2.2	National 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"/>
4.4	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:		
13. Pets/display animals, horticulture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Primary forms removed from the wild</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>&gt;75%</b>	<b>51-75%</b>	<b>26-50%</b>	<b>&lt;25%</b>	<b>Other forms removed from the wild:</b>
1. Whole animal/plant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Source of specimens in commercial trade</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>&gt;75%</b>	<b>51-75%</b>	<b>26-50%</b>	<b>&lt;25%</b>	<b>Other source of specimens:</b>
Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over last five years:</b>	Unknown					
<b>Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years:</b>						
<b>CITES:</b>						

## 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 an increasing species.

**Current Population Trend:** Increasing

**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:

## Bibliography

Arnold, E.N., 2003, , Reptiles and amphibians of Europe., , 288 pp., Princeton University Press., Princeton and Oxford.

Pleguezuelos, J.M., Márquez, R. and Lizana, M., 2002, , Atlas y Libro Rojo de los Anfibios y Reptiles de España., , pp. 584, Dirección General de la Conservación de la naturaleza-Asociación Herpetológica Española., Madrid.

Gasc, J.-P., Cabela, A., Crnobrnja-Isailovic, J., Dolmen, D., Grossenbacher, K., Haffner, P., Lescure, J., Martens, H., Martínez-Rica, J.P., Maurin, H., Oliveira, M.E., Sofianidou, T.S., Veith, M. and Zuiderwijk, A., 1997, , Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Europe., , pp. 494, Societas Europaea Herpetologica and Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris

Brelih, S., 1961, Seven new races of the species Lacerta (Podarcis) sicula Rafinesque from the Rovinj-Porec Region., Biol. Vest., , 9, 71-91, ,

Çevik, I.E., 1999, Trakya'da Yasayan Kertenkele Türlerinin Taksonomik Durumu (Lacertilia: Anguidae, Lacertidae, Scincidae), Tr. J. of Zoology, , 23(1):, 23-35, ,

Forman, F. and Forman, B., 1981, Herpetologische Beobachtungen auf Korsika., Herpetofauna, , 3(10), 12-16, ,

- Gorman, G.C., Soulé, M., Yang, S.Y. and Nevo, E., 1975, Evolutionary genetics of insular Adriatic lizards., *Evolution*, , , 29, 52-71, ,
- Henle, K., 1985, Ökologische, zoogeographische und systematische Bemerkungen zur Herpetofauna Jugoslawiens., *Salamandra*, , , 21(4):, 229-251, ,
- Henle, K. and Klaver, C.J.J., 1986, *Podarcis sicula* (Rafinesque-Schmaltz, 1810) - Ruineneidechse., , *Handbuch der Reptilien und Amphibien Europas, Band 2/II., Echsen (Sauria) III (Lacertidae III: Podarcis).*, Böhme, W., , pp. 254-342, Aula-Verlag, Wiesbaden
- Hohl, C., 1985, Versuch einer systematischen Bestandsaufnahme der Eidechsenpopulationen in der Region Basel (Schweiz)., *Salamandra*, , , 22(1), 55-62, ,
- Kroniger, M., 1990, Die Sardische Ruineneidechse - *Podarcis sicula cetti* - Ein Haltungs- und Zuchbericht., *Die Eidechse*, , , 1, 13-15, ,
- Thorpe, R.S., 1980, Microevolution and taxonomy of European reptiles with particular reference to the grass snake *Natrix natrix* and the wall lizards *Podarcis sicula*, *P. melisellensis*., *Biological Journal of Linnean Society*, , , 14, 215-233., ,
- Uğurtaş, I.H. and Yildirimhan, H.S., 2000, Two New Localities for *Lacerta sicula hieroglyphica* Berthold, 1842 (Reptilia, Lacertidae), *Turk. J. Zool.*, , , 24, 253-256, ,
- Baran, I. and Atatür, M.K., 1998, , , Turkish herpetofauna (amphibians and reptiles), , , Republic of Turkey Ministry of Environment, Ankara
- Böhme, W., 1997, A note of the gender of the genus *Podarcis* (Sauria: Lacertidae)., *Bonner zoologische Beiträge*, , , 47, 187-188., ,
- Oliverio, M., Bologna, M.A. and Mariottini, P., 2000, Molecular biogeography of the Mediterranean lizards *Podarcis* Wagler, 1830 and *Teira* Gray, 1838 (Reptilia, Lacertidae)., *Journal of Biogeography*, , , 27:, 1403-1420, ,
- Oliverio, M., Bologna, M.A., Monciotti, A., Annesi, F. and Mariottini, P., 1998, Molecular phylogenetics of the Italian *Podarcis* lizards (Reptilia, Lacertidae)., *Italian Journal of Zoology*, , , 65, 315-324., ,
- Capula, M. and Ceccarelli, A., 2003, Distribution of genetic variation and taxonomy of insular and mainland populations of the Italian wall lizard, *Podarcis sicula*., *Amphibia-Reptilia*, , , 24, 483-495., ,
- Malkmus, R., 2004, , , Amphibians and reptiles of Portugal, Madeira and the Azores-archipelago., , , A.R.G. Gantner Verlag K.G., Ruggell (Germany)
- Montori, A. and Llorente, G.A., 2005, , , Lista patrón actualizada de la Herpetofauna española. Conclusiones de nomenclatura y taxonomía para las especies de anfibios y reptiles de España., , , Asociación Española de Herpetología, Barcelona
- Sindaco, R., Venchi, A., Carpaneto, G.M. and Bologna, M.A., 2000, The reptiles of Anatolia: a checklist and zoogeographical analysis., *Biogeographia*, , , 21:, 441-554, ,