

EUROLIZARDS

Podarcis tauricus - Balkan Wall Lizard



Male: RO / Histria, 27.05.2013 - Males frequently show yellow undersides.

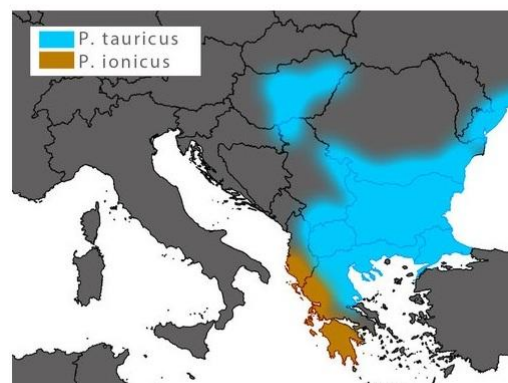
The Balkan Wall Lizard is the easternmost member of the genus *Podarcis*: Its distribution area reaches from Hungaria over Romania, Bulgaria and Eastern Greece and along the Black Sea coast to Crimea Peninsula in the east (as the scientific name "tauricus" indicates). Being well-adapted to the eastern European steppe, it lives in grassy habitats and climbs less than other Wall Lizards.

Podarcis tauricus shows a characteristic ventral pattern of broad dark supra-dorsolateral streaks on the back with a green streak in the center (although the green colours may fade during summer).

The former subspecies *ionicus* is now recognized as a separate species, *Podarcis ionicus*. It differs from *Podarcis tauricus* by its broad green ventral area.

Within its distribution range, *Podarcis tauricus* could be confused with *Podarcis erhardii* or *Podarcis muralis*. Both species have no green colouration and frequently show dark blotches on the labials which lack in *Podarcis tauricus*.

Lacerta agilis chersonensis has no dark supra-dorsolateral streaks but frequently a dark vertebral stripe.



The (approximate) distribution ranges of *Podarcis tauricus* and *Podarcis ionicus*.



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Female: RO / Vadu, 25.05.2013 - Podarcis tauricus usually has unspotted labials.



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Male: RO / Babadag, 25.05.2013 - Note the broad brownish supra-dorsolateral streaks and the narrow green area on the back.



The ruins of ancient Greek Histria at the Romanian Black Sea coast - Habitat of *Podarcis tauricus* and *Lacerta agilis*.



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