

EUROLIZARDS

Dinarolacerta montenegrina - Prokletije Rock Lizard



Female: MNE / Prokletije-Massiv, 03.07.2015 - Note the yellowish chin.

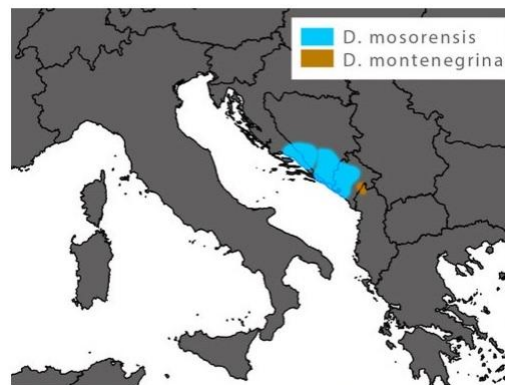
The Prokletije Rock Lizard is a rather inconspicuous, greyish species. However, it has chosen one of Europe's most scenic habitats: It only occurs in a few localities of the Prokletije mountain range at the Montenegrinan-Albanian border: a remote but truly magic place with a "Lord-of-the-Rings"-like atmosphere.

Only described in 2007, this species looks very similar to [Dinarolacerta mosorensis](#). However, it has been separated from the latter one by the deep Morača Canyon for some million years.

Dinarolacerta montenegrina lives in karstified mountain habitats up to 1700 m which are still under some Mediterranean influence. The presence of the sub-Mediterranean pine (*Pinetum heldreichii*) seems to be an indicator for suitable habitats.

Unfortunately, this species' habitats seem to be threatened by increasing cultivation and house building and also by wildfires.

Dinarolacerta montenegrina may co-occur with [Podarcis muralis](#) which has darker flanks, frequently orange throats and shorter snouts.



The ranges of *Dinarolacerta mosorensis* and *Dinarolacerta montenegrina*. The latter one is known from a few mountain habitats at the Montenegrinan-Albanian border, only.



Montenegro / Prokletije mountains, 30.07.2012 - Males may have yellow undersides.



Male; Montenegro / Prokletije mountains, 03.07.2015 - Note the blue outer ventral scales.



The Prokletije Mountains near Bukumirsko Lake at the Montenegrinan-Albanian boarder: Habitat of *Dinarolacerta montegrina* and *Podarcis muralis*.

