

EUROLIZARDS

Iberolacerta martinezricai - Peña de Francia Rock Lizard



Juvenile: E / Peña de Francia. 27.09.2010 - Note the slightly bluish ocelli which are already visible in this juvenile.

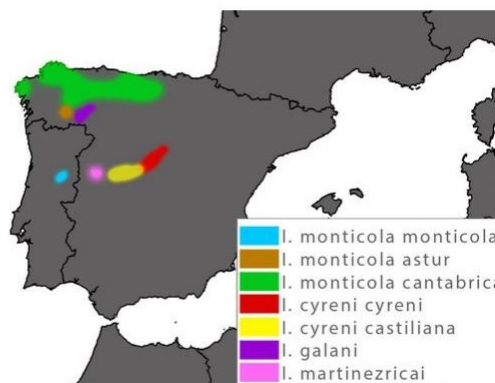
The Peña de Francia Rock Lizard has a serious problem: As a mountain lizard, it lives on a mountain range, which isn't really high (The Peña de Francia rises to 1700 m). If it's cold and cloudy up there, the lizards won't be out, of course. But if the sun shines, it will quickly get too warm for these mountain dwellers, so they won't leave their hideouts neither. In consequence, they have to live quite secretive - and will presumably further suffer from climate warming.

In consequence, *Iberolacerta martinezricai* is regarded as one of Europe's rarest species (But due to their secretive behavior, no one actually knows how many individuals do exist, actually).

Males of this species can show beautiful green colours - similar to [Iberolacerta monticola](#) and [Iberolacerta galani](#).

Within its distribution area, this species co-occurs with [Podarcis guadarrae](#). In females and juveniles of *Iberolacerta martinezricai*, the characteristic alternately broad and narrow tail segments can help for identification.

Furthermore, *Iberolacerta martinezricai* shows blue ocelli which already are apparent in juveniles.



Distribution areas of the Iberian *Iberolacerta* species: *Iberolacerta monticola*, *Iberolacerta galani* and *Iberolacerta martinezricai* are very similar and may best be distinguished by range.




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View from the peak of Peña de Francia (Salamanca) south - Habitat of *Iberolacerta martinezricai*.


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