



A crossbreed between *Lacerta pityusensis kameriana* Mertens 1927 and *Lacerta pityusensis vedrae* L. Müller 1927

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INTRODUCTION

On March 18th of 1975 I found in one of my terraria, in which I kept for years a male *Lacerta p. kameriana* and a female *Lacerta p. vedrae*, 8 eggs. Four of these eggs were part of an older clutch. This older clutch did not hatch, all embryos died in a state of complete development inside the egg. From the second clutch (laid on March the 16th and 17th of 1975) one egg was lost by mould, the other three eggs hatched. The first egg hatching, did show on the evening of the 9th of May a fissure, out of which half of the head of the lizard protruded. It took until the next morning till the lizard was completely out of the egg. The length of the egg just before hatching was 17 mm.

The hatchling had a snout-vent length (SVL) of approximate 29 mm. This young lizard was very shy and not eating well. About two months later it died. The other two eggs hatched on the 12th and 14th of May.

DESCRIPTION OF *LACERTA*

PITYUSENSIS KAMERIANA (♂).

The head of the specimen is steel blue with big black patches. The blue on the front parietalia is tending slightly to green. There is a black stripe on both sides from the eye, over the masseteric, till the ear. The supralabialia are mostly blue with a few black spots. In the extension of the supralabialia to the ear there is a black stripe.

The submaxillaria are on the mouth side sky blue and on the gular side as in the middle greenish blue. In the middle of the submaxillaria there is a bronze brown stripe. The gular region is sky blue with some black spots. The remainder of the ventral side is greenish blue. The outer ventral scales are

extremely bright blue, with a few black spots. The coloration and pattern of the head are continued in the occipital and parietal bands. The black dots are in this part mostly contiguous and display a tendency to a honeycomb structure. Between the blue scale there are a few green scales, lying far apart. The pattern of the occipital and parietal bands are continued just behind the hind legs. The temporal bands and the other areas of the lateral side are sky blue with black dots, which are mostly contiguous in a honeycomb shape.

The anterior part of the front leg is sky blue, the posterior part greenish blue, with a black honeycomb pattern. The hind leg is mostly greenish blue, with on the top side a tendency to a honeycomb pattern, often framed with a bronze brown coloration.

The tail is light blue with black patches, primarily ordered in four longitudinal rows. Between the blue scales there are a few greenish blue scales. To the back side, the tail becomes increasingly greener and more palish. (due to incomplete shedding).

SVL: 79,7 mm.
Tail length: 140,4 mm.
Total length: 220,1 mm.
Femoralia: 21/20
Lammellae: 27

Differences between my specimen and Eisentraut (material:15 ♂♂); Eisentraut observed often more greenish blue on the ventral and lateral sides. The top parts of the legs where mostly brownish. These are the only specimens Eisentraut described. Eisentraut gives the following mean values (material:5 ♂♂):

SVL: 79 mm.
Tail length: 125 mm (2 regenerated tails).
Ventralia: 26.
Femoralia: 21/21.
Lamellae: 28.

The shorter tail length and total length are probably caused by the regenerated tails.



DESCRIPTION OF *LACERTA*
PITYUSENSIS VEDRAE (♀).

The head is black with blue to greenish blue spots. The bluish color of the supralabialia is continued until the ear. The complete ventral side is sky blue with irregular shaped yellowish green patches. On the gular and collar area there are pale black spots, on the outer ventral scales black spots.

The background color of the dorsal and lateral parts is black. On the borders of the occipital and parietal bands there are yellowish green longitudinal stripes (in total four). These stripes starts as bluish green spot. The remainder of these stripes are contiguous. Between the longitudinal stripes are yellowish green and some bluish green spots. On the lateral parts there are blue spots.

The anterior part of the front leg is blue with black spots. On the upper parts of the front leg this black is predominant, and are the spots bluish green. The anterior part of the hind legs is blue with black spots, the upper side is of the hind leg and the feet are black with brown and green till blue spots.

The tail is for 3/5 of the length regenerated. The original part is blue with black spots. On the upper part of the tail there are some yellowish green scales. The regenerated part of the tail is colored bluish grey. To the ventral side this bluish grey becomes more greenish.

SVL: 76,6 mm.
Tail length: 84,9 mm (3/5 regenerated).
Total length: 161,5 mm.
Ventralia: 30.
Femoralia:
Lamellae: 27.

There is some kind of second tail, with a length of 12 mm, half way down the regenerated part of the tail.

Eisentraut (material: 4 ♀ ♀) observed in this subspecies much more yellow in the longitudinal stripes and dorsal spots. The longitudinal stripes were not always contiguous. In the by Eisentraut described specimens the predominant color of the upper part of the hind leg is blue. As the background color of the dorsal side of the head Eisentraut mentioned green and brown. The mean vallues for the females by Eisentraut (material: 4 ♀ ♀):

SVL: 59 mm.
Tail length: 88 mm (1 measurement).
Total length: 140 mm (1 measurement).
Ventralia: 29.
Femoralia: 23/24
Lamellae: 30.

These mean vallues are quite divergent from my specimen. The SVL of my specimen is almost 2 cm longer. Despite the fact my specimen has a 3/5 regenerated tail, the tail length of this specimen is almost not different. Also the total length is much longer. The explanation of these differences must be found in the low number of specimens compared (Only two in the case of the tail length).

DESCRIPTION OF *LACERTA*
PITYUSENSIS KAMERIANA X
LACERTA PITYUSENSIS VEDRAE.

The largest specimen (born the 12th of May, 1975). The head is very dark green with black spots. The outer sides of the parietalia are the starting point of the border of the parietal band. The supralabialia are sky blue with black spots. In front of the ears (slantwise behind and below the masseteric) there is a sky blue spot.

The submaxillaria are sky blue with in the middle and near the beak grey spots. The ventral parts are bluish green. On the throat there are some thin black lines, and on the two outer rows of the ventral scales black spots. The anal scale has one big black spot. Between head and front legs this specimen is colored sky blue with black rings.

The occipital and parietal bands are black. These bands are interspersed with green longitudinal lines. Behind the occipital scale these lines are composed, over a length of 7 mm, of brownish green spots. The lower longitudinal lines are beginning on the parietal scales, starting with yellow, later green and around midbody becoming bluish green spots. The black background color of the dorsal parts is speckled with green spots. The lateral parts are black and bronze brown, with blue and bluish green spots.

The anterior part of the front leg and foot is black and blue. The upper side is black with yellowish green spots till brown with black and yellowish brown spots. The anterior part of the hind leg is bluish green with black spots. Very noticeable is the brown coloration of the upper part of the hind leg,

with beige and a few yellowish green spots, fringed black.

The upper side of the tail is black till dark brown with bluish green spots, and on the ventral side also with some black spots. Towards the end of the tail, the ventral side becomes increasingly less bluish green.

SVL: 57,6 mm.
Tail length: 122 mm.
Total length: 179,6 mm
Ventralia: 27.
Femoralia: 21/21.
Lamellae: 27.

Smallest specimen (born the 14th of May, 1975). Because this specimen is still quite small, and therefor it is expected that coloration and pattern will change, I only will provide the differences with the previous specimen.

The blue spot behind the ear is continued until the also blue supralabialia. The submaxillaria are sky blue, and more to the front greenish blue with black spots, also with brown shades.

The occipital and parietal bands are just behind the head brown with black spots, more dorsally black becomes predominant. The outer lines of the parietal bands remain until the hind legs yellow. The predominant color of the lateral parts is brown.

The upper side of the front leg is brown with yellow, black fringed spots. The upper side of the hind leg is more lighter brown colored than the previous specimen.

The tail is brownish green, which to the end of the tail becomes predominant brownish. The anterior part of the tail becomes at the ventral side more greenish, with black and beige dots, and behind the hind legs also with blue dots.

SVL: 55,2 mm.
Tail length: 109 mm.
Total length: 164,2 mm.
Ventralia: 29.

CONCLUSION

It is clear that the juveniles the most resemble their mother: *Lacerta p. vedrae*. Especially the four longitudinal dorsal lines and the variety of coloration make the juveniles and the female differentiate from the *Lacerta p. kameriana*.

Some differences between the juveniles and *Lacerta p. vedrae*, which are still present (starting from *Lacerta p. vedrae*):

The head of *Lacerta p. vedrae* is darker.

The ventral side is clearly much brighter blue.

In the longitudinal dorsal lines there is more yellow.

On the lateral parts there is no brown coloration, on the legs just a little.

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SUMMARY

In a crossbreed between *Lacerta pityusensis kameriana* Mertens 1927 and *Lacerta pityusensis vedrae* L. Müller 1927 the juveniles mostly resembled the female *Lacerta p. vedrae*.

Literature

Eisentraut, M. (1949): Die Eidechsen der Spanischen Mittelmeerinseln und ihre Rassenaufspaltung im Licht der Evolution (Ibid. 26)

Translation from the Dutch language of the original article:

Ouboter, P.E. (1976) - Een kruising tussen *Lacerta pityusensis kameriana* Mertens 1927 en *Lacerta pityusensis vedrae* L. Müller 1927 - *Lacerta*, 34: 138-141