



Central Spain, 25.09. - 03.10.2010

During this year's autumn trip we wanted to visit the Iberolacerta species in Central Spain. Given warm temperatures and constantly sunny weather this journey rather was a second summer trip – hence we were able to visit the high altitude lizards habitats in the mountains. The three stations of our trip were Sierra de Gredos, Pena de Francia and Sierra de Guadarrama.



The most common flowering mountain plant during our autumn trip: Merendera montana

Sierra de Gredos

We started lizard hunting in the area of Hoyos del Espino where Podarcis hispanicus as well as Lacerta schreiberi are common species. Above 1800 metres we found Iberolacerta cyreni castiliana.



A little diva: juvenile Lacerta schreiberi



A male of *Podarcis hispanicus* Type 1, which is considered as a separate species



Another male: this lizards can be distinguished from *P. hispanicus* (sensu stricto) and also from *P. hispanicus* Type 2 which occurs in Southern Spain: in particular, the bold black dorsal markings seem to be a characteristic of Type 1.



Cold high plateau in the Sierra de Gredos – home of *Iberolacerta cyreni castiliana*

Mallorca / Alicante



Andalucia, 10. - 18.09.2012



:bpo

The Iberolacertas turned out to be great photo models, really patient while being photographed...



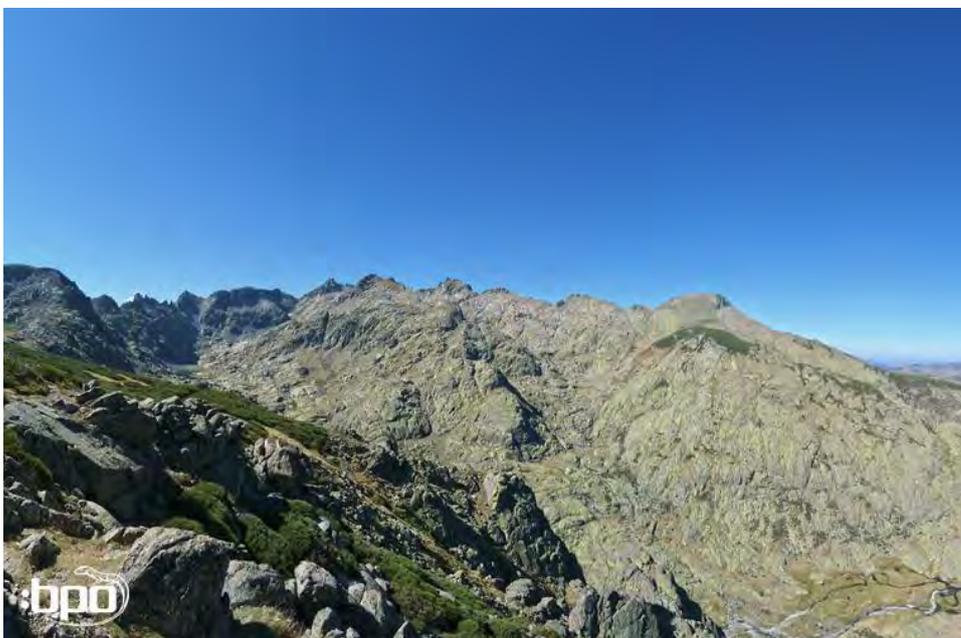
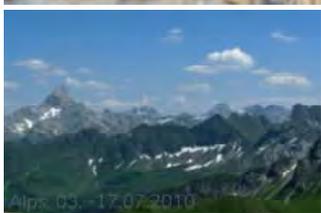
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Like a small monitor lizard!



:bpo

Another male, posing in front of the camera



Circo de Gredos: During a hike to the Laguna Grande Iberolacerta cyreni was omnipresent – ideal conditions for our next photo session ...



...some males show bright greenish colours...



...another beautiful male (we couldn't get enough of these lizards)...



...and a dark coloured specimen – the lizards were active during the whole day, even basking in the bright afternoon sun.



In the Gredos nature reserve, *Capra pyrenaica* can be seen everywhere – the animals aren't shy at all!



*Ephippiger* sp.



At Laguna Grande Parnassia palustris was flourishing



Rana iberica



Natrix maura

## Pena de Francia

On Pena de Francia we watched out for the second rock lizard species in Central Spain – *Iberolacerta martinezricai*. We had low expectations with regard to that species, as it is rather rare and sometimes tricky to be found. During the three days of our stay we came across several juveniles but didn't find any adult – they simply weren't out at that time!



View from Pena der Francia to the Castilian high plateau



Juvenile *Iberolacerta martinezricai* with its characteristic blue tail



Gyps fulvus



Lampides boeticus



At the village of Monsagro we found a water basin with Triturus pygmaeus and...



...this adult *Lacerta schreiberi*



The most widespread lizard in Spain: *Psammodromus algirus*

#### Sierra de Guadarrama

Our third station was Sierra de Guadarrama – home of *Iberolacerta cyreni* ssp. *cyreni*. This mountain range is a popular touristic area with roads leading straight to the mountain passes where *Iberolacerta cyreni* occurs. So, no long hikes were necessary!



Juvenile *Natrix maura*



Our only shot of *Timon lepidus*



*Podarcis hispanicus* Type 1 can also be found in Sierra de Guadarrama – a female



Within Sierra de Guadarrama



*Crocus serotinus*



*Iberolacerta cyreni cyreni*...



...lives in syntopy with *Podarcis muralis*



Some of the wall lizards have nice reddish throats



Another *Iberolacerta cyreni cyreni* with blue ventral scales...



And again – Iberolacerta cyreni: in contrast to the lizards from Gredos the ssp. cyreni doesn't have bright green colours



The lizards could be found during the whole day – but as the weather turned windy in the evening, they disappeared in rock crevices

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