

1996). The territorial behavior of this species seems to show hierarchical aspects, particularly evident during the reproductive period, besides differences of space use between males and females (SOUND & VEITH, 1998). Pairing takes place from May to June; males normally show a longer activity period than females. Clutch size 5–20 whitish eggs of 13–18 x 8–10.5 mm; a second deposition can take place, but generally with smaller clutch size.

### **Some notes on *Lacerta viridis* (LAURENTI, 1768)**

**Eastern Green Lizard · (Italian name: ramarro orientale)**

Only recently the western and eastern Green Lizard populations have been considered two distinct species and the Italian populations have been referred to *Lacerta bilineata*. *L. viridis* can be distinguished morphologically from *L. bilineata* only because of the throat coloration in juveniles. Very recently a hybrid zone has been found in Friuli. If *L. viridis* is really present within the Italian boundaries is not yet established (AMANN et al., 2001). In the territory considered in this book, the two species occur in the same habitat types. No ecological distinctive features are available at present. For this reason we prefer to limit the treatment of this species to some distributive notes.

The distribution of *L. viridis* should include: eastern Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia (Cres Island excluded), Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary (AMANN et al., 1997; TVRTKOVIC et al., 1998), Balkan region, eastward to S Ukraine, central Greece [and on the islands of Kerkyra, Euboea, Skyros, Skyathos, Thasos, Samothraki (ENGELMANN, 1993), Tinos (NAULLEAU, 1997)] and NW Anatolia. Following the hypothesis by BRÜCKNER et al. (1998) *L. viridis* is expanding westward.

Relatively termophilous, this lizard occupies mainly maquis and forest edges, open and sunny slopes, meadows, areas close to water and cultivated areas, when provided by grassy edges or bramble-bushes. In central Europe the species is also found in anthropized sites like gardens, cemeteries, pathways (ELBING, 1998). In the montane habitats of Greece (about 1000 m) the species prefers meadows, provided by bushy zones, forest clearings, while on coastal localities it is mainly found in moisten meadows, oak forests and bramble-bushes (MAYER, 1998).

Many subspecies or races on the *Lacerta viridis* populations have been described.