

Common (European) Wall Lizard

FAMILY LACERTIDAE

Podarcis muralis

This exotic species was introduced into Cincinnati in 1951 and has become well established. Sometimes referred to locally as “Lazarus lizards,” the common wall lizards were brought to eastern Cincinnati from northern Italy by a local resident after a vacation near Milan and were released in a backyard. The lizards can now be found in several areas in Hamilton County and have established themselves in neighboring Kentucky and Indiana, with population densities of 1,500 per acre in good habitat.

The lizards are primarily found along old rock walls, railroad tracks, refuse piles, or occasionally in rocky ravines. Because they have persisted for many years and survived through record-setting severe winters, they are considered permanent residents. It is unknown what effects the common wall lizard will have on native species, but their spread should be discouraged. It is illegal to release this or other animals into the wild in Ohio.



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- 1976 to present
- Historic records prior to 1976

LENGTH common wall lizard
5.5”–8.125”