

First record of *Podarcis siculus*
(RAFINESQUE-SCHMALTZ, 1810)
from Greece

The lacertid lizard *Podarcis siculus* (RAFINESQUE-SCHMALTZ, 1810) is distributed in Italy including the islands of Sicily and Sardinia, the northwestern Balkan Peninsula, southern Switzerland and southern France. Isolated or introduced populations are known from Corsica, the Iberian Peninsula and Menorca, northwestern Turkey, the United States and probably Libya and Tunisia (ISAILOVIC et al. 2009).

The present note reports the finding of an introduced population of *P. siculus* in

Athens, Greece (Fig. 1). One adult male (Fig. 2) and one adult female were collected by the author on March 23 and June 15, 2014, at Palaio Faliro (37°55'9.38" N, 23°42'0.50" E). The specimens are deposited at the Zoological Museum, University of Athens (ZMUA accession numbers 4101 and 4102). Dorsal coloration in both animals was greenish with a broad vertebral band composed of loosely arranged dark spots. The underside was unspotted white. The male (SVL: 68 mm) had 26 transverse rows of ventrals in six longitudinal rows and 60 dorsals around mid-body. The collar was smooth-edged with 9 scales. There were 12/11 (left/right) supraciliar granules and 22/22 femoral pores. The female (SVL: 64 mm) had 29 transverse rows of ventrals in six longitudinal rows and 65 dorsals around mid-body. The author counted 23/23 femoral pores and 12/15 supraciliar granules. The collar was smooth-edged and formed by 10 scales. All measurements are in accordance with those in HENLE & KLAVER (1986).

The flourishing colony (estimated population size was 50-60 adults plus numerous subadults in August 2014) inhabits a narrow zone of bare sand (90 m x 15 m) under considerable anthropogenic impact. This small artificial "green area" in between a crowded beach and a tram stop in a main avenue is chiefly vegetated by oleanders, tamarisks, fig trees and yuccas.

Molecular analysis is urgently needed to trace the source population and clarify the most probable pathway of introduction.

REFERENCES: HENLE, K. & KLAVER, C. J. J. (1986): *Podarcis sicula* (RAFINESQUE-SCHMALTZ, 1810) – Ruineidechse; pp. 254-342. In: BÖHME, W. (Ed.): Handbuch der Reptilien und Amphibien Europas. Band 2/II. Echsen (Sauria) III (Lacertidae III: *Podarcis*). Wiesbaden (Aula Verlag). ISAILOVIC, J. C. & VOGRIN, M. & CORTI, C. & MELLADO, V. P. & SÁ-SOUSA, P. & CHEYLAN, M. & PLEGUEZUELOS, J. & SINDACO, R. & ROMANO, A. & AVCI, A. (2009): *Podarcis siculus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2014.1. Web document available at < www.iucnredlist.org > (last accessed on 17 July, 2014).

KEY WORDS: Reptilia: Squamata: Sauria: Lacertidae; *Podarcis siculus*, distribution, new country record, invasive species, Athens, Greece

SUBMITTED: July 24, 2014

AUTHOR: Chloe ADAMOPOULOU - Zoological Museum, Department of Biology, University of Athens, Panepistimioupolis, GR-15784, Greece < cadam@biol.uoa.gr >.



Fig. 1: Male *Podarcis siculus* (RAFINESQUE-SCHMALTZ, 1810) from Palaio Faliro, Athens (Greece).



Fig. 2: Portrait of a male *Podarcis siculus* (RAFINESQUE-SCHMALTZ, 1810) from Palaio Faliro, Athens (Greece).
The individual is now in the collection of ZMUA under accession number 4101.