

Podarcis peloponnesiacus - Peloponnese Wall Lizard



Subsp. peloponnesiacus, pair: GR / Santomeri, 29.05.2017 - Note the striped female which has the same size as the male. The lateral skin fold indicates that it has been ovipositing before.

The Peloponnese is a hotspot for endemism and thus, it may not surprise that it also holds a specific Wall Lizard species: *Podarcis peloponnesiacus*, a robust lizard with males often showing spectacular orange and blue colours in spring. This species can be found in rocky areas as well as in gardens and olive groves.

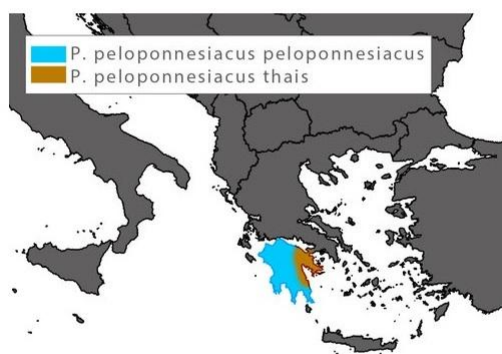
During mating season, males can be quite territorial and highly aggressive. On the other hand, they seem to be able to establish pairbonds with their partners which seem to last significantly longer than mating season - A remarkable behavior for such a small reptile.

Besides of the nominate subspecies, *subspecies thais* has been described for the Argolis peninsula. It shows whitish instead of orange throats. The Parnon and the Arcadian mountain ranges mark the distribution limit between this and the nominate subspecies.

Its closest relatives are [Podarcis cretensis](#) and [Podarcis levendis](#).

Podarcis peloponnesiacus co-occurs with three other *Podarcis* species:

- [Podarcis erhardii livadiacus](#) has dark spots on the labials which lack in *Podarcis peloponnesiacus*. Furthermore, *Podarcis peloponnesiacus* frequently has a vertebral line, which lacks in *Podarcis erhardii*.
- [Podarcis muralis](#) has a distinct brown stripe between eyes and ears, which usually lacks in *Podarcis peloponnesiacus*. Male *Podarcis peloponnesiacus* differ from *Podarcis muralis* by the extensive blue spots on the flanks.
- [Podarcis ionicus](#) differs from *Podarcis peloponnesiacus* by its bright green coloration (in spring).



The distribution area of *Podarcis peloponnesiacus*



EUROLIZARDS

Subsp. peloponnesiacus, male: GR / Feneos, 08.04.2010 - Males may show stunning colours in spring.



EUROLIZARDS

Subsp. peloponnesiacus, male: GR / Erymanthos, 27.05.2017 - Note the extensive blue blotches on the shoulders of this rather pale



EUROLIZARDS

Subsp. thais, male: GR / Parnon, 04.04.2010 - This subspecies frequently shows whitish instead of orange throats.



EUROLIZARDS

Subsp. thais, male: GR / Tolo, 03.04.2010 - Males of this subspecies may have broad blue colours on the flanks.



The shores of the artificial Lake Doxa (GR / Feneos) are inhabited by *Podarcis peloponnesiacus*, *Podarcis muralis*, *Podarcis ionicus* and *Lacerta trilineata*.



[About](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookie Policy](#) | [Sitemap](#)
EUROLIZARDS - The Home of European Lizards! © Birgit & Peter Oefinger