

Podarcis muralis (LAURENTI, 1768)
Common Wall Lizard

Identification: Total length up to 20 cm. Rostral usually does not contact external nares; a single postnasal; usually 4, rarely 3 or 5 supralabials in front of subocular. 42-62 rows of dorsal scales at mid-trunk; ventrals in 6 longitudinal rows; femoral pores between 13-22. The dorsum may change from gray to brown with a dark vertebral stripe or a row of dark maculations. Flanks also with a dark brown longitudinal stripe, which may have light colored lines above and below. The venter is white, pink, yellow or red, with dark maculations, more prominent in males. Sometimes only the throat is spotted, or the venter is immaculate.

Habitat & Biology: Inhabits dry, sunny, rocky places, sometimes sparsely wooded areas; seen on garden walls and ruins. Feeds on insects. A female deposits 2-12 eggs in burrows dug in soil.

Distribution: Known from Middle and S Europe, and Turkey; with a vertical distribution up to 2000 m. Represented with two subspecies in Turkey: The nominate race (*P. m. muralis*) lives in Turkish Thrace, NW anatolia and in the vicinities of Vilayets Kastamonu and Ankara; while *P. m. kefkenensis* BARAN-GRUBER, 1981 lives at Kefken Island, in Black Sea.



72. *Podarcis muralis*