

First record of *Podarcis muralis*
(LAURENTI, 1768),
from Athens, Greece

The Common Wall Lizard, *Podarcis muralis* (LAURENTI, 1768), has the widest range among the representatives of the genus (GUILLAUME 1997). Its natural distribution covers a large part of central and southern Europe (GRUSCHWITZ & BÖHME 1986) while it was introduced to North America (BÖHME et al. 2009). In Greece, *P. muralis* is widespread throughout the mainland (CHONDROPOULOS 1986) where it typically occurs at medium and high altitudes, and avoids lowlands and coasts. The species is, however found on only three Greek islands, Samothrace (WERNER 1938), Euboea (VALAKOS et al. 2008) and Corfu (HILL & MAYER 2004). In south Greece its distribution is confined to mountains, where its presence is bound to high humidity and lush vegetation (VALAKOS et al. 2008).

On May 7, 2016, the authors observed a basking individual of *P. muralis* on a wall of a sidewalk in the west Athenian suburb Agioi Anargyroi (38°01'00.53"N, 23°43'10.84"E; 60 m a.s.l.). During the subsequent survey, 13 individuals of this species were encountered two of which, a male [snout to vent length (SVL) 52 mm, regenerated tail, mass 3.2 g] and a female (SVL 49 mm, tail length 98 mm, mass 2.9 g) (Fig. 1) were captured. Both specimens were added to the Herpetological Collection of the Natural History Museum of Crete, University of Crete (Museum voucher numbers NHMC 80.3.55.145 and 80.3.55.146). The individuals were collected under the permit ΑΔΑ:73ΟΣ4653Π8-7Ψ8 that was issued by the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy. The species has never been reported from the metropolitan area of Athens in the past. It may have arrived there passively, e.g., through timber transports (VALDEÓN et al. 2010) or actively along railway lines (COVACIU-MARCOV et al. 2006). Molecular analyses will unravel the origin of this population. The closest known population is found in the Parnitha Mountains at approximately 700 m a.s.l., located 16 km northeast of the new Athenian record (PAFILIS & SIMOU 2006).



Fig. 1: Female *Podarcis muralis* (LAURENTI, 1768), (NHMC 80.3.55.146) from west Athens, Greece.

The Common Wall Lizard can exist close to or within human settlements (TOTH et al. 2006) even very large cities (CAPULA et al. 1993; STRUGARIU et al. 2008). The population detected in Athens was established probably only recently and, given the species' high ecological plasticity (MALETZKY et al. 2011; VIGNOLI et al. 2015), can be expected to expand its distribution. Potential negative consequences that *P. muralis* may induce to autochthonous lizards (MÜNCH 2001; MOLE 2010), together with the newly reported lacertid species in Athens metropolitan area (ADAMOPOULOU 2015; HEDMAN et al. 2017) underscore the need for high alert.

REFERENCES: ADAMOPOULOU, C. (2015): First record of *Podarcis siculus* (RAFINESQUE-SCHMALTZ, 1810) from Greece. - *Herpetozoa*, Wien; 27: 187-188. BÖHME W. & PÉREZ-MELLADO, V. & CHEYLAN, M. & NETTMANN, H. K. & KRECSÁK, L. & STERLIOVSKI, B. & SCHMIDT, B. & LYMBERAKIS, P. & PODLOUCKY, R. & SINDACO, R. & AVCI, A. (2009): *Podarcis muralis*. In: IUCN 2009. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2009: WWW document available at < <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/61550/0> > [<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2009.RLTS.T61550A12514105.en>] [last accessed 09 June 2016]. CAPULA, M. & LUISELLI,

- L. & RUGIERO, L. (1993): Comparative ecology in sympatric *Podarcis muralis* and *P. sicula* (Reptilia: Lacertidae) from the historical centre of Rome: What about competition and niche segregation in an urban habitat? - Italian Journal of Zoology, London; 60: 287-291.
- CHONDROPOULOS, B. P. (1986): A checklist of Greek reptiles. 2. The lizards.- Amphibia-Reptilia, Leiden; 7: 217-235.
- COVACIU-MARCOV, S. D. & BOGDAN, H. V. & FERENTI, S. (2006): Notes regarding the presence of some *Podarcis muralis* (LAURENTI 1768) populations on the railroads of western Romania.- North-Western Journal of Zoology, Oradea; 2: 126-130.
- GRUSCHWITZ, M. & BÖHME, W. (1986): *Podarcis muralis* (LAURENTI, 1768) – Mauereidechse; pp. 155-208. In: BÖHME, W. (Ed.): Handbuch der Reptilien und Amphibien Europas. Vol. III (*Podarcis*). Wiesbaden (Aula).
- GUILLAUME, C. P. (1997): *Podarcis muralis* (LAURENTI, 1768); pp. 286-287. In: GASC, J.-P. & CABELA, A. & CRNOBRNJIA-ISAILOVIC, J. & DOLMEN, D. & GROSSENBACHER, K. & HAFFNER, P. & LESCURE, J. & MARTENS, H. & MARTINEZ RICA, J. P. & MAURIN, H. & OLIVEIRA, M. E. & SOFIANIDOU, T. S. & VEITH, M. & ZUIDERWIJK, A. (Eds.): Atlas of amphibians and reptiles in Europe; Paris (Societas Europaea Herpetologica & Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle).
- HEDMAN, H. & KAPSALAS, G. & KARAMETA, E. & PSONIS, N. & POULAKAKIS, N. & FOUFOPOULOS, J. & PAFILIS, P. (2017): First record of *Podarcis peloponnesiacus* (BIBRON & BORY, 1833), from outside the Peloponnese.- Herpetozoa, Wien; 29: 190-193.
- HILL, J. & MAYER, W. (2004): First record of the Wall Lizard *Podarcis muralis* (LAURENTI, 1768), from the Ionian Island of Corfu.- Herpetozoa, Wien; 17: 94-96.
- MALETZKY, A. & HATTINGER, A. & MOOSBRUGGER, K. & SCHWEIGER, S. (2011): The Common Wall Lizard *Podarcis muralis* (LAURENTI, 1768), new to the province of Salzburg (Austria). Origin of a paraneozoon.- Herpetozoa, Wien; 23: 88-90.
- MOLE, S. R. C. (2010): Changes in relative abundance of the western green lizard *Lacerta bilineata* and the common wall lizard *Podarcis muralis* introduced onto Boscombe Cliffs, Dorset, UK.- Herpetological Bulletin, London; 114: 24-29.
- MÜNCH, D. (2001): Do allochthone common wall lizards jeopardize autochthone sand and viviparous lizards? - Dortmund Beiträge zur Landeskunde, Dortmund; 35: 187-190.
- PAFILIS, P. & SIMOU, C. (2006): The southernmost geographic distribution of *Podarcis erhardii*.- Herpetological Review, Salt Lake City; 37 (2): 361-362.
- STRUGARIU, A. & GHERGHEL, I. & ZAMFIRESCU, S. R. (2008): Conquering new ground: On the presence of *Podarcis muralis* (Reptilia: Lacertidae) in Bucharest, the capital city of Romania.- Herpetologica Romanica, Oradea; 2: 47-50.
- TÓTH, T. & GRILLITSCH, H. & FARKAS, B. & GÁL, J. & SUŠIĆ, G. (2006): Herpetofaunal data from Cres Island, Croatia.- Herpetozoa, Wien; 19: 27-58.
- VALAKOS, E. D. & PAFILIS, P. & SOTIROPOULOS, P. & LYMBERAKIS, P. & MARANGOU, P. & FOUFOPOULOS, J. (2008): Reptiles and amphibians of Greece. Frankfurt am Main. (Edition Chimaira), pp. 463.
- VALDEÓN, A. & PERERA, A. & COSTA, S. & SAMPAIO, F. & CARRETERO, M. A. (2010): Evidencia de una introducción de *Podarcis sicula* desde Italia a España asociada a una importación de olivos (*Olea europaea*).- Boletín de la Asociación Herpetológica Española, Salamanca; 21: 122-126.
- VIGNOLI, L. & VUERICH, V. & BOLOGNA, M. A. (2015): Experimental study of dispersal behavior in the Common Wall Lizard, *Podarcis muralis* (LAURENTI, 1768).- Herpetozoa, Wien; 27: 137-146.
- WERNER, F. (1938): Die Amphibien und Reptilien Griechenlands.- Zoologica, Stuttgart; 35: 1-117.

KEY WORDS: Reptilia; Squamata; Lacertidae; *Podarcis muralis*; invasive species, distribution, Athens, Greece

SUBMITTED: June 27, 2016.

AUTHORS: Emmanouela KARAMETA < emykarameta@biol.uoa.gr >; Panayiotis PAFILIS (corresponding author < ppafile@biol.uoa.gr >), Section of Zoology and Marine Biology, Department of Biology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, 157 84 Panepistimioupolis, Ilisia, Athens, Greece.

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Herpetozoa](#)

Jahr/Year: 2017

Band/Volume: [30_1_2](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Karameta Emmanouela, Pafilis Panayiotis

Artikel/Article: [First record of Podarcis muralis \(LAURENTI, 1768\), from Athens, Greece 87-88](#)