

EUROLIZARDS

Timon lepidus - Ocellated Lizard



Subsp. lepidus, young male: E / La Toba (Jaen), 20.09.2018 - Note the blue ocelli on the flanks.

Being the biggest European Lacertid, the Ocellated Lizard is a highlight of the European fauna. These bold reptiles with conspicuous ocelli pattern are real eye-catchers. However, these shy lizards can be a challenge for photographers, sometimes: so, patience is the key.

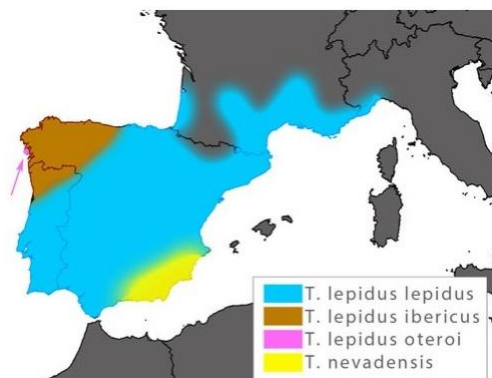
The distribution range of *Timon lepidus* covers the extreme northwestern Italy, Southern France and the major part of the Iberian Peninsula. In southeastern Spain, the species is replaced by [Timon nevadensis](#). *Timon lepidus* lives in rocky mountain habitats up to 2000 meters as well as in open agricultural landscapes and coastal dunes.

Besides of the nominate subspecies, two subspecies are currently recognized:

- *Subspecies ibericus*, a rather small subspecies with frequently darker pattern. It inhabits the northwestern part of the Iberian Peninsula (but the transition zone between this and the nominate subspecies is poorly known).
- *Subspecies oteroi* is similar. It has been described for Salvora Island in Galicia.

Timon lepidus can be distinguished from other lizards by the following characters:

- Other green lizards ([Lacerta bilineata](#), [Lacerta schreiberi](#)) have no blue ocelli on the flanks.
- Juveniles of *Timon lepidus* show a pattern of white dots which differs from juveniles of *Lacerta bilineata* and *Lacerta viridis* (and from any other small Lacertid in the area.)
- Juveniles of [Lacerta agilis garzoni](#) may look similar. However, *Lacerta agilis garzoni* only occurs in high altitude mountain habitats (Pyrenées). Therefore, syntopy of both species is questionable.
- [Timon nevadensis](#) has no black reticulation on the back, juveniles of that species show dark edges on the labials. However, there seems to be a wide transition area.



Distribution ranges of *Timon lepidus* and *Timon nevadensis*.



Subsp. lepidus, subadult: E / La Toba (Jaén), 20.09.2018 - Subadult specimens show ocelli on the back which are dispersed in adults.



Subsp. lepidus, juvenile: E / Riöpar (Albacete), 21.09.2018 - Note the brownish colouration with light dots.



Subsp. lepidus, male: E / Lago de Sanabria (Zamora), 01.09.2014 - Possibly, this population refers to subspecies ibericus.



Subsp. lepidus, juvenile: E / Lago de Sanabria (Zamora), 19.09.2017



EUROLIZARDS

Subsp. ibericus, male: E / O Pindo (A Coruña), 06.09.2011 - Specimens from northwestern Spain are frequently darker and smaller as the nominate subspecies.



EUROLIZARDS

Mountain habitat of Timon lepidus, Psammodromus algirus, Psammodromus edwardsianus and Podarcis liolepis at Javalambre (E / Teruel).

EUROLIZARDS