

EUROLIZARDS

Algyroides moreoticus - Greek Algyroides



Male: GR / Erymanthos, 27.05.2017 - Note the black & white pattern on the flanks.

The Greek Algyroides is a small lizard which can be easily overlooked. However, it is worth to be noticed as males of this species can be small jewels: On Zakynthos, they frequently show bright yellow colours; on Kefalonia and Ithaka, they often have bluish flanks; whereas on Peloponnese, they usually have a distinct black-and white pattern. Females are inconspicuously brownish and frequently smaller than males.

Algyroides moreoticus is an endemic species of Peloponnese and the mentioned Ionian Islands. It lives in rather humid and shady habitats and can be often observed basking on wood or tree trunks in the late afternoon. During summer, this species may be very secretive.

Algyroides moreoticus may co-occur with the following species:

- At *Algyroides nigropunctatus*, the scales on the back are bigger than on the flanks whereas at *Algyroides moreoticus*, the scales on the back have the same size as on the flanks. Furthermore, the latter one is significantly smaller.
- Other small Lacertids of that area (*Hellenolacerta graeca* and some *Podarcis* species) have no keeled scales and therefore a more shiny appearance.



The distribution area of *Algyroides moreoticus* covers Peloponnese and the islands of Kefalonia, Ithaka and Zakynthos.



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Male: GR / Erymanthos, 19.04.2019 - a male with slightly yellowish dots on flanks



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Male: GR / Erymanthos, 19.04.2019



Female: GR / Santomeri, 19.04.2019 - females show uniform brownish colours. Note the big, strongly keeled scales on flanks.



Male: GR / Zakynthos, 28.05.2017 - Males on Zakynthos frequently show bright yellow colours.



Male: GR / Zakynthos, 29.05.2017 - Another beauty from Zakynthos. Note the keeled scales.



Male: GR / Kefalonia, 29.05.2014 - On Kefalonia and Ithaka, males frequently show blue flanks.



Habitat of *Algyroides moreoticus*, *Algyroides nigropunctatus* and *Podarcis ionicus* with dense vegetation (GR / Ithaka).


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