



Iberolacerta aranica - Aran Rock Lizard



E / Val d'Aran, 23.08.2016 - Male on top, female below. Note the characteristic three large masseteric scales.

The Aran Rock Lizard is a lovely animal: These Lacertids use basking as part of their social life. They can be seen basking pairwise or in small groups - unlike other lizards, they even seem to enjoy physical contact. Although population densities may be high in suitable habitats, intraspecific aggression seems to be moderate: We saw two adult males alternately basking on the same stone (see pictures below).

Iberolacerta aranica isn't a pure rock dweller: After thermoregulation they can be seen hunting in the grass for insects.

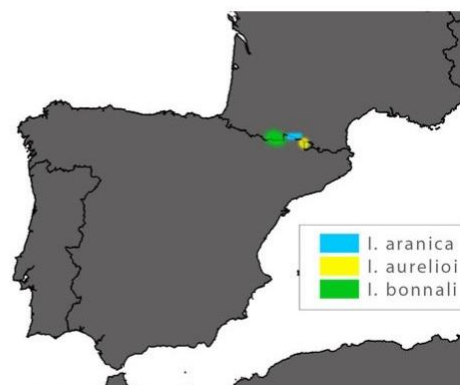
The distribution range of *Iberolacerta aranica* is limited to the Spanish Val d'Aran area and adjoining France.

Within its distribution range, this species co-occurs with *Zootoca vivipara* and presumably *Podarcis muralis*. *Iberolacerta aranica* differs from these species by the characteristic three big masseteric scales.

[Zootoca vivipara](#) frequently shows a dark vertebral line which lacks in *Iberolacerta aranica*. Furthermore, *Iberolacerta aranica* has a characteristic pointed snout.

[Podarcis muralis](#) may have a dark vertebral line which lacks in *Iberolacerta aranica*. Furthermore, it has a dark-spotted, frequently orange throat, whereas *Iberolacerta aranica* has an unspotted whitish throat.

Iberolacerta aranica differs from other Pyrenean Rock Lizard species ([Iberolacerta bonnali](#), [Iberolacerta aurelioi](#)) by the characteristic three big masseteric scales.



Distribution area of the Pyrenean Rock Lizards: The range of *Iberolacerta aranica* is in between of the other two Pyrenean Rock Lizards.



E / Val d'Aran, 23.08.2016 - Female and subadult specimen basking together.



E / Val d'Aran, 23.08.2016 - Three Aran Rock Lizards warming up in the morning sun.



E / Val d'Aran, 23.08.2016 - An adult male basking on a rock.



E / Val d'Aran, 23.08.2016 - Another male basking on the same rock as the one above.



Habitat of *Iberolacerta aranica* near Baguerge (Val d'Aran / Spain).

