
***Podarcis taurica* (PALLAS, 1814)**
Balkan Wall Lizard

Identification: Total length up to 22 cm. Rostral usually in contact with external nares; a single postnasal; usually 4, rarely 3 or 5 supralabials in front of subocular. 42-64 rows of dorsal scales at mid-trunk; ventrals in 6 longitudinal rows; femoral pores between 14-22. The dorsum is green or bluish; the flanks brown, overlaid by blackish blotches. Dorsum with a pair of light colored dorsolateral stripes. The venter is yellowish or reddish in males; whitish or greenish in females. There may be blue markings and small black spots on the lateral rows of the ventrals.

Habitat & Biology: Inhabits rocky or sandy open areas with low and sparse vegetation, sometimes seen in forests. Feeds on insects. A female lays 2-6 eggs.

Distribution: Its range includes the Balkan countries, Turkey, some Aegean islands and Crimea; with a vertical distribution to 1000 m. In Turkey, known from the Turkish Thrace, also eastern and southern parts of the Marmara Region.



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