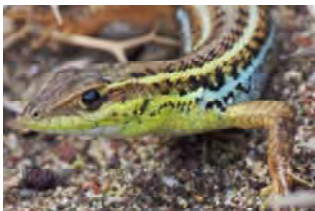


home trip reports lizards about links



Portugal, 13. - 20.07.2013

One week in Central Portugal - 3 target species - Atlantic weather: That was the setting of this year's summer trip. Our must-haves were *Teira dugesii*, *Podarcis carbonelli berlengensis* and *Iberolacerta monticola monticola*. Finding all of these three species turned out to be harder than expected but we were successful at last. Thanks to Frank Deschandol.



The cliffs of Peniche

13.07.

Flight to Lisbon, from there we drove to the Peniche Peninsula, where we hoped to find *Podarcis carbonelli berlengensis* – this subspecies has been described for the Peniche Peninsula and the Berlengas Islands. When we arrived at Peniche it was foggy with drizzle and 18 °C: no chance to find lizards.

14.07.

The weather on the coast was still the same: fog and drizzle! We cancelled our plan to take a boat to the Berlengas Islands and drove to the Parque Natural Candeeiros da Serra de Aire, about one hour's drive from Peniche. There, it was sunny and hot. The scenic area looked like a herping paradise, but unfortunately we found nothing but some hectic *Psammotromus algirus*.



No reptiles - boring...

15.07.

Still foggy! We decided to leave Peniche and went to the Serra da Estrela. In the peak area near the Torre we had a first photo session with *Iberolacerta monticola* – lizards, finally!



Pyrenees, 2008 - 2010



Sicily & Aeolian Islands, 2016
6.6.2016



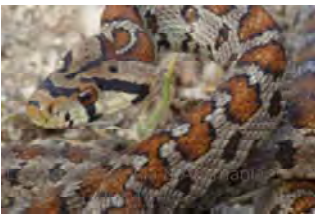
Spain, 2015 - 19.9.2015



11.7.2015



Spain, 29.9. - 14.9.2014



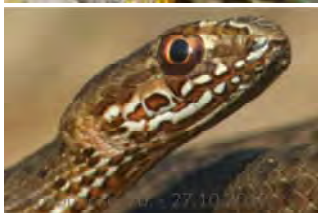
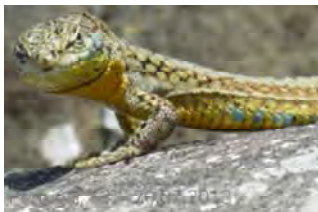
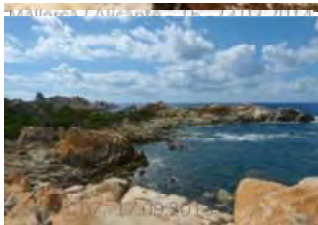
Iberolacerta monticola monticola: usually the males are greenish...



...but also bluish ones can be found



Another blue Iberolacerta monticola



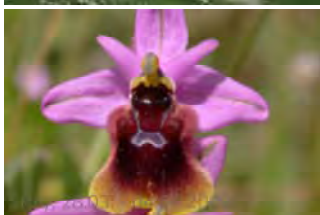
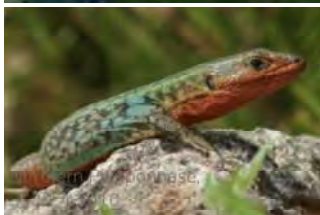
Female



Searching for rock lizards

16.07.

Lizard hunting in the Serra da Estrela, part 2: We found *Iberolacerta monticola*, *Podarcis hispanicus* type 1, *Lacerta schreiberi*, *Chalcides striatus*, *Timon Lepidus* (unfortunately we didn't manage to get a picture) and *Psammodromus algirus*.



Habitat of Podarcis hispanicus type 1



Female Podarcis hispanicus type 1...



...and a male – this species occurs in the cooler areas in the north of Portugal, in the warmer parts of the country the species is replaced by Podarcis hispanicus type 2.



Female Lacerta schreiberi



Another Lacerta schreiberi



Chalcides striatus

17.07.

Lizard hunting in the Serra da Estrela, Part 3: In the valley of Manteigas we searched for *Lacerta schreiberi* along the Zezere River. Afterwards, we re-visited the peak area of the Serra da Estrela for *Iberolacerta*.



Habitat of *Lacerta schreiberi*



Male *Lacerta schreiberi*



Male Podarcis hispanicus Type 1...



...and another one



Iberolacerta Country



Curious *Iberolacerta monticola*



An alpha-male...



...a real "poser"...



...the alpha-male obviously was quite full of himself.



Nearby, a beta-male was hunting for wasps – getting dangerously close to the alpha-male.



Meanwhile, the alpha-male still was posing...



...the two males about to meet: the meeting was short and violent.



Soon after having defended its territory, the alpha-male was posing again...



...but also the beta-male apparently forgot the defeat quickly and practiced in posing, too. Magnificent animals!

18.07.

We left the Serra da Estrela in the direction of Lisbon with a stopover at Peniche. At Peniche: 18° C, fog and drizzle – again no *Podarcis carbonelli*... An hour later we arrived in Lisbon: sunny weather. In the city we visited a population of introduced *Teira dugesii*. In the green areas of the city we also found *Podarcis hispanicus* type 2.



Male *Teira dugesii*



Another male



Pair



Female



Female Podarcis hispanicus type 2...



And a juvenile...

19.07.

After another photo session with *Teira dugesii* we went to the Parque Natural de Sintra-Cascais, a beautiful scenic area, where the reptile search turned out to be difficult, however. We only found *Podarcis hispanicus* type 2 and *Psammodromus algirus*. In the afternoon the sun came out also further north – at least the weather forecast for Peniche was promising. Hence, we started a last attempt and went to Peniche. There, it was still cloudy but warmer than in the previous days. After a long search we finally found three specimens of *Podarcis carbonelli* – success at the last minute! On 20.07., we had to take our plane back to Germany early in the morning.



Teira dugesii - juvenile



Male



Female



Portrait of an adult animal



City herping



Podarcis hispanicus type 2 in its full beauty



A very large Psammodromus algirus



Finally: Male *Podarcis carbonelli berlengensis* – it is questionable whether this is a valid subspecies, since these animals neither morphologically nor genetically differ significantly from mainland populations. Nevertheless, we were happy to find *Podarcis carbonelli* at all, as several authors have pointed out that finding this species in the field – particularly in summer – can be difficult.



Female *Podarcis carbonelli berlengensis*



Happy at last!

The home of European lizards - by Birgit & Peter Oefinger!