



Psammodromus occidentalis - Western Psammodromus



Male, P / Bordeira, 17.04.2017; During breeding season, males show bright colours.

The Western Psammodromus is maybe the most secretive of the three small Spanish Psammodromus species. It occurs on the western Iberian Peninsula only.

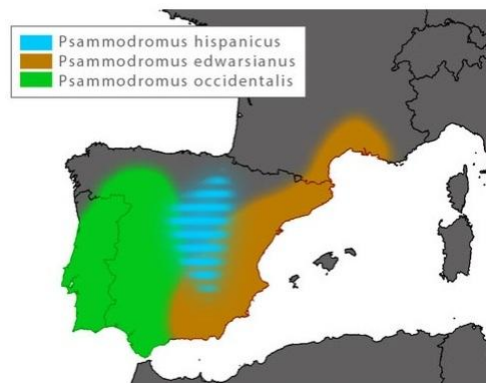
Being a small, ground-dwelling species, it can be found in habitats with low vegetation (like coastal phrygana), where it can be easily overlooked. Furthermore, it appears to be more shy than other small Psammodromus species. So, if you want to photograph these lizards, take your time - These little beauties are worth to be patient: Males may show bright green or yellow colours during mating season.

Distinguishing between *Psammodromus occidentalis* and *Psammodromus hispanicus* by external characters can be difficult. Hence, the exact distribution limit between these species in western-central Spain is unknown so far. *Psammodromus occidentalis* prefers Atlantic climate with moderate temperatures in winter whereas *Psammodromus hispanicus* lives in areas with continental climate and cold winters.

Psammodromus edwardsianus differs by its distinct supralabial scale below the subocular scale.

Due to its characteristic back pattern of black and white bars, *Psammodromus occidentalis* can hardly be confused with other small Lacertid lizards in its range.

(Sub-)Adult *Acanthodactylus erythrurus* may have similar patterns but are much bigger.



Psammodromus occidentalis inhabits the western part of the Iberian Peninsula although its exact distribution limits are poorly known.



Male, P / Bordeira, 15.04.2017; These lizards are beautiful - but small, as the Helianthemum flower in the right part of the picture illustrates.



Female, P / Bordeira, 15.04.2017



Well-vegetated coastal dunes in Western Algarve (Portugal): In such habitats, *Psammodromus occidentalis* can occur in good numbers but may be easily overlooked.



[About](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookie Policy](#) | [Sitemap](#)

EUROLIZARDS - The Home of European Lizards! © Birgit & Peter Oefinger