

**PODARCIS MURALIS (Wall Lizard). ELEVATION.** Wall lizards are widespread in the northern hemisphere, well beyond their native range in southern Europe, and are currently spreading in North America (Engelstoft et al. 2020. Northwest. Nat. 101:50–55) and northwestern Europe (While et al. 2015. Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B 282:20142638). Hundreds of new populations have stemmed from deliberate introductions (Kolbe et al. 2013. Biol. Invasions 15:775–783), but also as accidental introductions associated with cargo carried by plane, boat, or truck (Michaelides et al. 2015. Molec. Ecol. 24:2702–2714). Up-slope range extension is also known to occur as a consequence of climate change in mountainous environments. In the Pyrénées for instance, *Podarcis* records nowadays abound above 1800 m and exist up to at least 2400 m (G. Pottier, pers. com.).

At 1240 h on 12 October 2021, we observed a male sub-adult *P. muralis* (Fig. 1) on the observation platforms at Pic du Midi de Bigorre Observatory, France (42.93558°N, 0.14258°E; WGS 84; 2809 m elev.). Although *P. muralis* are abundant in all areas surrounding the summit where the Pic du Midi de Bigorre is located, they have not been found above 2340 m, despite extensive surveys conducted in 2020 and 2021. This observation is a 469 m elevational extension for this species, and we suspect this was a human-mediated dispersal. This area is experiencing commercial development and receives helicopter delivered construction materials and it is likely the lizard hitch-hiked on construction related shipments.

Upward colonization of *P. muralis* in the Pyrénées, likely driven by climate warming, has been reported (Pottier 2012. Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement durable et de l'Énergie, Bagnères de Bigorre, France), the species may also benefit from accidental human introductions since they are tolerant of urban habitats (Pottier 2012, *op. cit.*; Gherghel and Tedrow 2019. Acta Oecol. 101:103479). We hypothesize our observation is a potential founding event, and it is possible more

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FIG. 1. Juvenile male *Podarcis muralis* found at location Pic du Midi de Bigorre, France at 2809 m elevation.

lizards are in the area, or others may be inadvertently delivered in future construction supply shipments. It remains to be seen whether this founding event will lead to a self-sustaining population at this record elevation, but due to their habits of overwintering near heated facilities at the Pic du Midi, 469 m lower in elevation, it is likely (i.e., reptiles have been reported to hibernate inside or under buildings [Schulz 1996. A Monograph of the Colubrid Snakes of the Genus *Elaphe* Fitzinger. Koeltz Scientific Books, Havlickuv Brod. 439 pp.]). Further monitoring is needed to confirm our hypothesis.

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