



Community

Friday October 16th 2009

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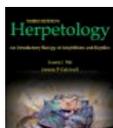
Latest updates:

- Paulo Barros has made a report from the Baixo Sabor, Portugal (15th October 2009)
- Marten van den Berg has made a report from the Ibiza & Formentera, Spain (15th October 2009)
- Carl Corbidge has made a report from the Basque country, France, Spain (25th September 2009)
- Thomas Reich has made a report from Italy (31st August 2009)
- Bobby Bok has made a report from the Netherlands (31st August 2009)
- Ilias Strachinis has made a report from Lemnos, Greece (31st August 2009)
- Tom Hoogesteger has made a report from Italy (29th August 2009)

Latest short reports:

- Bogatii Forest in central Romania by Tibor Sos (13/8/2009)
- Berner Oberland, Switzerland by Mario Schweiger (16/7/2009)
- 4 hours around my house - Salzburg, Austria by Mario Schweiger (30/6/2009)

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Field report - Ibiza & Formentera September/October 2009

by **Marten van den Berg**

As you may know from my previous reports, my main herping interest is in island lacertid lizards. This trip to the Pityusic islands was also a sort of sentimental journey. It was exactly 26 years ago I went as a student to Ibiza and Formentera to make some pictures of *Podarcis pityusensis* on different locations, mainly the islets out of Ibiza town, also Illa d'es Canar and Formentera. I even went up a few meters on Illa Murada in the North, but the steep climb was too risky of damaging my gear (and myself), and in these days I couldn't afford replacing the camera and objectives. Luckily things have changed over time, only the damaging of myself didn't...

Podarcis pityusensis is a very variable species, probably the most variable in lacertid lizards. At this moment 23 subspecies are valid, but in the past 23 more were described. Also on the two main islands the variability is stunning as is its presence, in contrary to *Podarcis lillfordi* on mainland Mallorca and Menorca, due to the lack of nasty snakes. Actually *Podarcis pityusensis* has also an invading potential as it has translocated from the Pityusics to Mallorca (4 populations), Barcelona and even to the Basque coast at the peninsula of San Juan de Gaztelugatxe and Monte Urgull (San Sebastian).

In this report I will not present the pictures chronologic but geographic from north to south with most of the visited locations located at the map below. Three locations are not represented in the pictures; Escull de Tramuntana due to the absence of lizards (this is a small rock with a sparse single species saline plant-cover). The other two are Illa de ses Perreres and Illa d'es Fonoll Mori. These islets contain previously not described populations, so this new facts have to be published elsewhere first.

The habitats of the little islets consists mostly of rocky substrate with multi species plant-cover, but Conejo de Formentera and Trucadors, which were islands in the past (as was Savina), add dune system. You will notice the adaptation in the lizards. The gender distinction only based on habitus and color morph is difficult to make in most cases within these two populations.

This is only a little section of *Podarcis pityusensis*, as there are lots of other islets habituating subspecies with amazing color morphs from full melanistic to cyanic and the beautiful blue and yellowish-green of the Es Vedra and Es Vedranell populations.

I'm not following this site's guidelines concerning not to be too specific about locations, because in understanding this species all is in the location. I also hope that the rules about hands don't apply to feet. I can assure this was completely voluntary...



Illa Canaret:

Comments (5)

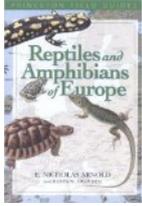
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Illa Canaret on a rainy day (not the day of the pictures)



Male *Podarcis pityusensis canaretensis*



Juvenile *Podarcis pityusensis canaretensis*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis canaretensis*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis canaretensis*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis canaretensis*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis canaretensis*

S'Argamassa:



Female *Podarcis pityusensis pityusensis*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis pityusensis*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis pityusensis*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis pityusensis*



Juvenile *Podarcis pityusensis pityusensis*

Illa Redona de Santa Eularia:



Illà Redona de Santa Eularia



Male *Podarcis pityusensis redonae*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis redonae*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis redonae*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis redonae*

Illa Grossa de Santa Eularia:



Illa Grossa de Santa Eularia



Male *Podarcis pityusensis redonae*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis redonae*

Ibiza old town:



Male *Podarcis pityusensis pityusensis*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis pityusensis*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis pityusensis*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis pityusensis*



Juvenile *Podarcis pityusensis pityusensis*

Trucadors:



Male or female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Male or female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*

Conejo de Formentera:



Male or female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Male or female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*

Escull d'es Pou:



Escull d'es Pou (no lizards)

Illa d'es Pouet:



Illa d'es Pouet



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*

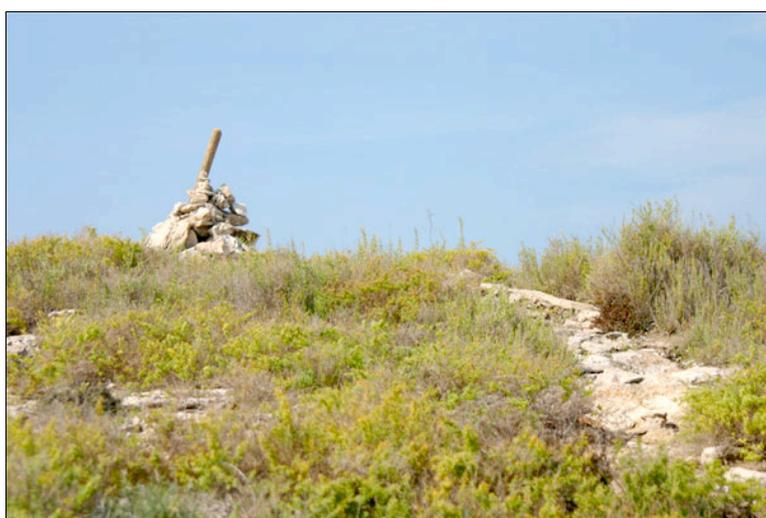


Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Juvenile *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*

Illa Redona d'es Illetes:



Habitat Illa Redona d'es Illetes



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*

Savina:



Habitat Illa Redona d'es Illetes



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Subadult *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*

Es Calo:



Female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*

La Mola:



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Subadult *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*

Cap de Barbaria:



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Female *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*



Male *Podarcis pityusensis formenterae*

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Marten van den Berg



@Jean-pierre Yep, DOF is a problem using a 200 mm macro. But you don't have the time to change the lense each time the oppotunity changes like the last picture when the object is in a closer possition. On Illa Grossa Santa Eularia I forgot the 200 mm, so these were taken with a 35-70 zoom (at 70), but getting close enough was almost impossible. Perhaps you have any suggestions?

16/10/2009 at 12h17

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Peter Oefinger



A complete report about lizards - without "nasty snakes"! That's what I like.

16/10/2009 at 9h48

Jean-pierre Vacher



Great catalog of Podarcis, it's amazing. Too bad most of your pictures are out of focus!

16/10/2009 at 8h14

Bobby Bok



Always stunning to see there is so much Lacertid life on these small islets! Nice report.

15/10/2009 at 19h41

Erik Paterson



wow, some really stunning lizards you found! great scenery too, looks like a wonderful trip!

15/10/2009 at 18h59