

A case of cannibalism in the common wall lizard, *Podarcis muralis*, in Serbia

Slučaj kanibalizma kod zidnog guštera, *Podarcis muralis*, u Srbiji

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Small European lacertids, including *Podarcis* sp., feed mostly on arthropods (ARNOLD & OVENDEN, 2002), but can consume gastropods, small vertebrates and plants (ARNOLD, 1987; VAN DAMME, 1999). Therefore, they can be considered opportunistic predators; cases of predation among the conspecifics are also not unknown (CASTILLA & VAN DAMME, 1996; GRANO ET AL., 2011). Cannibalism and oophagy were reported for approximately 1,300 reptilian species (POLIS, 1981). Feeding on conspecific individuals is also known in *Podarcis muralis* (KABISCHKI ENGELMANN, 1964 – in Polis and Myers, 1985; ASSMAN, 1997 and SCHMIDT-LOSKE, 1994 – in SCHULTE, 2008; ŽAGAR & CARRETERO, 2012). Here we report on the case of cannibalism in *Podarcis muralis*, recorded on the Avala mountain (44°41' N, 20°30' E), near Belgrade, Serbia. During the field work on April 1st 2011, beneath a stony wall overgrown with ivy (*Hedera helix*), we observed an adult male killing and devouring a conspecific sub-adult. The observation was made at 2:30 PM, in sunny weather (app. 21°C) with no wind.

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FIGURE 1. A-F *Podarcis muralis* feeding on a conspecific sub-adult
SLIKA 1. A-F Hranjenje *Podarcis muralis* subadultnom jedinkom iste vrste