



Anatololacerta anatolica - Anatolian Rock Lizard



Subsp. aegaea, male: GR / Manolates (Samos), 15.06.2019

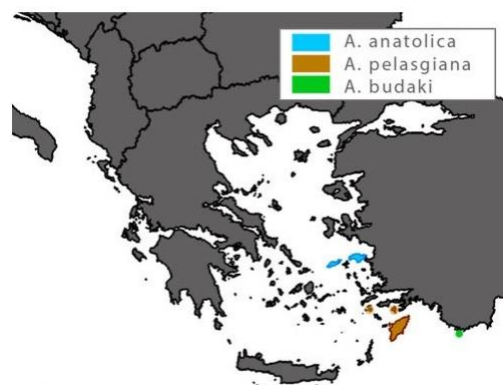
In Asia Minor, the European genus *Podarcis* is replaced by the genus *Anatololacerta*. In our area, these lizards occur on some Greek islands, only. It is a well climbing species which prefers rather humid habitats. In our area, two quite different subspecies occur: Subsp. *aegaea* is present on Samos and subsp. *oertzeni* occurs on Ikaria.

In subsp. *aegaea* on Samos, males and females show quite similar patterns. Sexes can be best distinguished by the bigger heads of the males. On Samos, this species seems to be rather rare, occurring in low numbers.

Subsp. *oertzeni* on Ikaria shows a strong sexual dichromatism: Adult males become brownish with a "washed" pattern, sometimes showing green outer ventral scales. Undersides are whitish with dark spots. Females show a heavy dark pattern and orange undersides. On Ikaria, these lizards are very common with sometimes high population densities. This may be a result of rather low predation pressure on that island.

Ophisops elegans, which also occurs on Samos and Ikaria differs from *Anatololacerta anatolica* by its fixed eyelid and a very rough appearance of its scales.

Juveniles of *Lacerta diplochondrodes* (present on Samos) frequently show a distinct light vertebral line which lacks in *Anatololacerta anatolica*.



The European distribution range of *Anatololacerta anatolica* is limited to the Greek islands of Samos and Ikaria.



EUROLIZARDS

Subsp. aegaea, female: GR / Samos, 10.06.2019



EUROLIZARDS

Subsp. oertzeni, male: GR / Ikaria, 12.06.2019 - Note the greenish outer ventral scales.



Subsp. oertzeni, male: GR / Ikaria, 11.06.2019 - Males show dark spots on the lower labials.



Subsp. oertzeni, male: GR / Ikaria, 12.06.2019 - Adult males show brownish colors.



Subsp. oertzeni, female: GR / Ikaria, 12.06.2019 - Females show orange undersides and a contrasting pattern.



Subsp. oertzeni, female: GR / Ikaria, 13.06.2019 - Note the heavy back pattern.



Subsp. oertzeni, juvenile: GR / Ikaria, 11.06.2019 - Juveniles show bright colors and greenish tails.



Habitat of *Anatololacerta anatolica* on Ikaria.

