

A New Locality of the Italian Wall Lizard *Podarcis siculus* (Rafinesque-Schmaltz, 1810) from Turkey

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Abstract. The current paper reviews the current distribution of the Italian Wall Lizard (*Podarcis siculus*) in Turkey. A new locality at Güzelyalı Belediyesi Resort, south-west of Mudanya City in the country is reported.

Key words: *Podarcis siculus hieroglyphicus*, new locality, Turkey.

The Italian Wall Lizard, *Podarcis siculus* (Rafinesque-Schmaltz, 1810) ranges throughout Italy south of the Alps, including on Sicily, Sardinia, and many other islands in the Tyrrhenian Sea, in extreme southern Switzerland, Corsica (France), and along the Adriatic coastal area from southwestern Slovenia, through western and southern Croatia and extreme southern Bosnia Herzegovina to Montenegro. It also occurs as isolated introduced populations in southern France, the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal), Menorca in the Balearic Islands (Spain), on both sides of the Bosphorus in Turkey, Ile La Galite (Tunisia), and Isola di Lampedusa (Italy). It has been also introduced to a number of sites in the United States, and may have been introduced to Libya and Tunisia. It ranges from sea level up to 2000 m a.s.l. (Isailovic et al. 2006).

The subspecies *Podarcis siculus hieroglyphicus* lives only in Turkey and was described by Berthold (1842), and its terra typica is Istanbul. After its discovery in Istanbul only few studies report new localities of this subspecies (Bodenheimer 1944, Başoğlu & Baran 1977, Çevik 1999). Since then, only recently, the subspecies' distribution in this area is studied more thoroughly by Uğurtaş et al. 2000, Hür et al. 2008 and Stenicka et al. 2008 (Fig. 1).

During a field trip along the south coast of Marmara Sea a new locality of *Podarcis siculus hieroglyphicus* was discovered (Fig. 1). On 27 August 2007 at Güzelyalı Belediyesi Resort, south-west of Mudanya City (N40°21'52.82", E28°54'29.21", 2 m a.s.l.) a subadult specimen was observed and photographed (Fig. 2). The lizard was observed in a garden of a restaurant in the urban part of the resort next to the beach itself. The lizard showed high agility and good climbing skills similar to the green lizard (*Lacerta viridis*).

As pointed out by some authors (Başoğlu & Baran 1977, Uğurtaş et al. 2000) the presence of *Podarcis siculus* in Istanbul and the Marmara region is interesting because it may have been brought to Turkey accidentally by people or trade ships. It seems that the Italian Wall lizard has some good colonizing abilities and its distribution in the Marmara region continues to grow even in rural and urban areas. It may be considered to be a successful invasive species that can pose a potential threat of displacing native lizard populations.

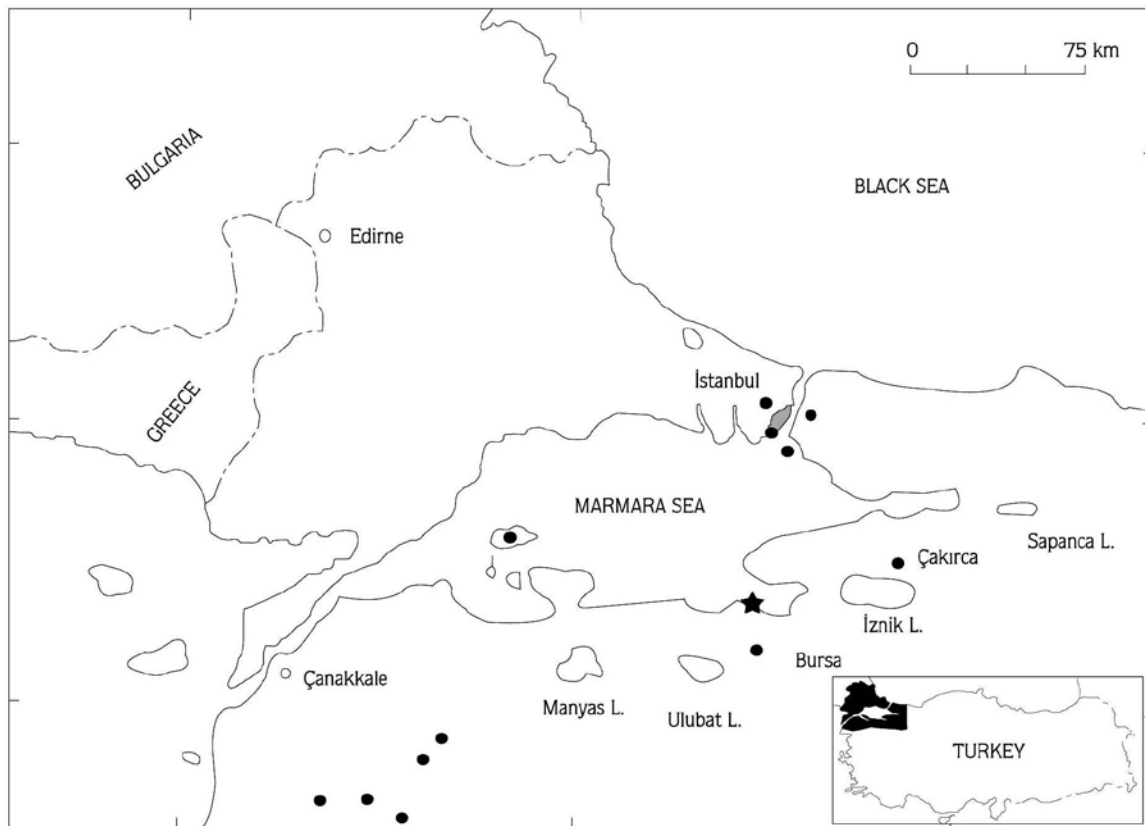


Fig. 1. Current distribution of *Podarcis siculus hieroglyphicus* in Turkey (after Uğurtaş et al. 2000, with supplements). Legend: ● – known localities; ★ - the new locality (explanations are in the text).



Fig. 2. Photo of the discovered specimen of *Podarcis siculus hieroglyphicus*. Photo: I. Mollov.

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