

***Lacerta valentini*** BOETTGER, 1892  
**Valentin's Lizard**

**Identification:** Total length up to 23 cm. Rostrale does not contact external nares; a single postnasale; 4 supralabials in front of subocular. 41-59 rows of smooth dorsal scales at mid-trunk; ventrals in 6 longitudinal rows; femoral pores between 14-23. The dorsum is dark or yellowish-green with light brown maculations. Two light colored paravertebral stripes, which also continue on the base of the tail. Flanks are darker colored with blackish maculations. The venter is light yellow or orange during the breeding season; the lateral ventrals are light blue.

**Habitat & Biology:** Inhabits high steppes and rocky-pebbly areas. Hides in rocky crevices and under stones. Feeds on insects. A female lays around 5 eggs.

**Distribution:** Known from S Georgia and Turkey, with a vertical distribution between 1800-3000 m. Represented with two subspecies in Turkey: The nominate race (*L. v. valentini*) is found in Vilayets Artvin, Ardahan, Kars, Iğdır and Van; *L. v. lantzicyreni* (DAREWSKY-EISELT, 1967) in Eastern Anatolia region from Kayseri to Erzurum.



69. *Lacerta valentini*