
Lacerta viridis (LAURENTI, 1768)

Green Lizard

Identification: Total length up to 30-34 cm. Rostral in contact with external nares; 2 postnasals; temporal scales relatively big, so there are only a few of them. In mid-trunk, dorsal scales in 40-56 rows; ventrals in 6 longitudinal rows; femoral pores between 14-21. The dorsum of the juveniles brown with 2 or 4 lighter colored longitudinal bands and dark blotches between the bands. The dorsum changes to

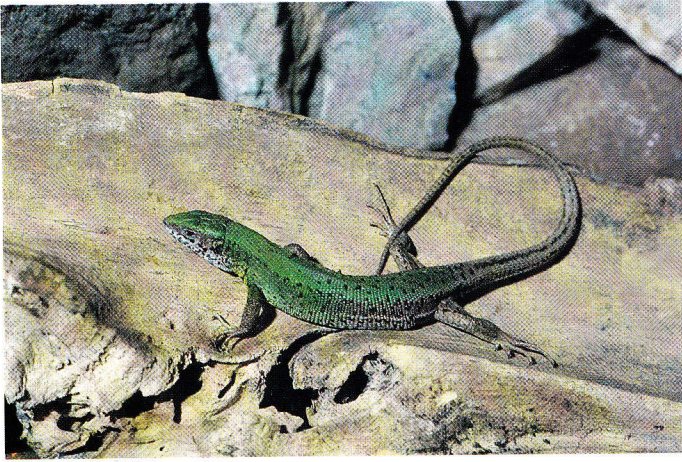
green with onset of maturity, however, the dorsum of the tail and the limbs stay brown; some males may be completely green. The venter yellowish and without markings; Chin and the sides of the head blue in males, beige in females.

Habitat & Biology: Inhabits forested areas or open fields, wooded and bushy areas between cultivated fields not far from water. Feeds mainly on insects. Not as agile or quick as *L. trilineata*. A female lays around 5-21 eggs.

Distribution: Widespread in Middle and S Europe, also in Turkey; with a vertical distribution to 2000 m. A single subspecies in Turkey; *L. v. meridionalis* CYREN, 1933 in Turkish Thrace, also extends from NW Anatolia towards Espiye in the west, in the Black Sea coastal strip.



70A. *Lacerta viridis*



70B. *Lacerta viridis*