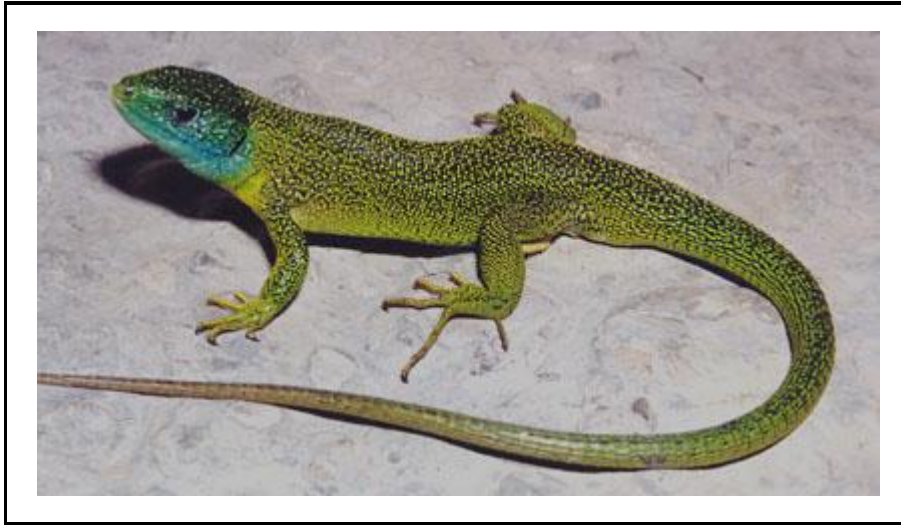


# The Alien Lizards of Topeka, Kansas

The WESTERN GREEN LACERTA and the ITALIAN WALL LIZARD



The photo above is of an adult male Western Green Lacerta collected by Larry L. Miller, and the photo below is of a young Western Green Lacerta that was collected by James Gubanyi of Topeka, Kansas. Mr. Gubanyi has lived in Topeka, Kansas since 1959. He worked for the late Dr. Charles Burt, the person that owned Quivira Specialties of Topeka. Most people agree that the populations of Western Green Lacertas and Italian Wall Lizards that can be found in Topeka were introduced from animals that either escaped or were set free from Quivira Specialties.

Click on either Western Green Lacerta photo to read an article written by Heather Hollingsworth for THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL about an October 1998 search for the lizards.





The above photo is of a young Western Green Lacerta.



**Dr. Guntram Deichsel (above) is from Germany. He has made several trips to Topeka to help with reasearch that is being conducted in regard to the non-native lizards that now call an area near 21st and Gage in Topeka, Kansas their home. Dr. Deichsel was the first to confirm the species of Lacerta found in the area as the Western Green Lacerta.**

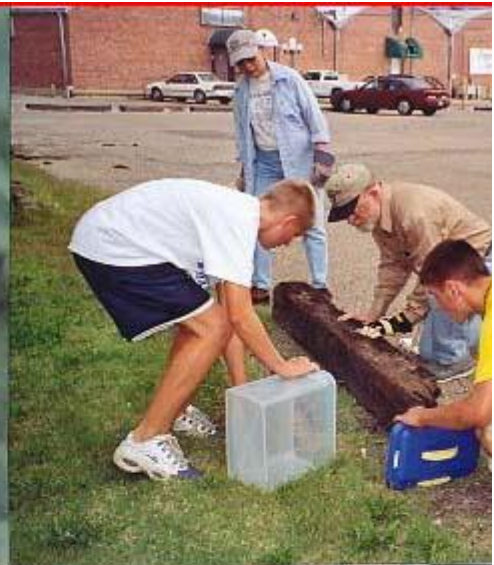
**Click on the photo of Dr. Deichsel to go to [www.lacerta.de](http://www.lacerta.de) and learn more about lizards at this excellent German website with English translation by Dr. Deichsel.**

This photo is of an adult female Western Green





Lacerta collected by a Northern Hills biology student.



[Click here to view some more photos of lizard collecting in Topeka, Kansas.](#)





**The people in the photos are collecting Italian Wall Lizards. Both Western Green Lacertas and Wall Lizards are native to parts of Europe and both species became established in Topeka, Kansas after either being set free or escaping from a pet dealer in the 1950's or early 1960's**

**Many of the people in the photos are students from Washburn University, Northern Hills Junior High School, and Topeka Collegiate School. They were attempting to collect lizards for professional herpetologists Joseph T. Collins of the Center for North American Herpetology.**

**More information about the lizards can be obtained by clicking on the photos. The photos of the Western Green Lacertas link to an article by Heather Hollingsworth. The bottom photos of lizard collecting link to a science site at NORTHERN HILLS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. Information about the Kansas Herpetological Society can be obtained by following the herpetology link at the top of the page or by clicking on the KHS logo at the bottom of the page.**

**More information about lizards and herpetology in general can be found by searching the Internet. There are thousands of websites dealing with different aspects of the study of herpetology.**

Click on photo below for the



2005 RUNNING OF THE LIZARDS.



Click on image above for KHS information.

**Click on the image of the Italian Wall Lizard above and then click on the image of another Italian Wall Lizard to go to a page of images in regard to these animals in Topeka, Kansas.**

**CLICK ON THIS TEXT TO VIEW A PHOTO OF A WALL LIZARD AMONG THE RUINS OF POMPEII, ITALY TAKEN BY BELAI C. MILLS OF PERRY, KANSAS DURING THE SUMMER OF 2006.**

Click on the image below for the



"2007 RUNNING OF THE LIZARDS"