

COMMON WALL LIZARD

Podarcis muralis
Lacertidae, the true lizard family

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- The Common Wall Lizard is a ground dwelling reptile which commonly occupies rock faces, open woodlands, and urban developments.
- Their tendency to live in large populations allows them to out compete natives by taking over habitat and eating excessive amounts of invertebrates.

Diagnostic Characteristics

- The body of the Common Wall Lizard is long, slender, and flattened.
- Their bodies can grow up to 63 mm long, and their tail can reach 1.5 times that length!
- They are brown, grey, and/or green in color and pattern.
- They may have blue-black spots set in linear or splotchy patterns along their back and sides.
- Juveniles may appear brown with black spots.
- Adults may have green flecks on their back, especially near the shoulders.
- The scales on the back and sides are bead-like in shape.

Introduction and Movement

- The Common Wall Lizard is native to Europe.
- They were introduced to the United States from Northern Italy in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1951 or 1952.
- This lizard is recorded occurring from Van Wert County, Ohio to south of the Ohio river in Kentucky.
- They were introduced to British Columbia, Canada near Victoria in the early 1970s, and are established on the southern tip of Vancouver Island.

Prevention Strategy

- Thoroughly research any animal you would like to own, and ensure you are aware of your local laws and regulations.
- Inspect cargo, shipments of ornamental trees or other materials for hitchhikers.
- Never release any animal or plant into the wild.
- Can escape from pet trade facilities, enclosures, terrariums, or private gardens.
- Always Remember:

DON'T LET IT LOOSE

Sources

- Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society: <https://fviss.ca/other-invasives-1/common-wall-lizard>
- NatureServe Explorer: https://explorer.natureserve.org/Taxon/Element_Global.2.101295/Podarcis_muralis

