

ITALIAN WALL LIZARD

Podarcis sicula
Lacertidae, the true lizard family

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- The Italian Wall Lizard inhabits a very large variety of habitats, from natural grasslands to coastal dunes, pine plantations, and urban areas.
- Typically they keep to areas below 1000 meters, but they have been found in areas up to 2000 meters.
- They are opportunistic, highly adaptable, and popular in the pet trade.

Diagnostic Characteristics

- The Italian Wall Lizard measures up to 9 cm in length, but is typically smaller.
- They typically have a long head and robust body.
- The belly will be tinged white, grey, or green.
- The back will be green, yellow, olive, or a light brown color.
- Females are smaller than the males, with a smaller head and lacking an enlarged tail base.
- Morphology varies dependent on the region.
- Sexual Maturity is reached at between 1 and 2 years of age.

Introduction and Movement

- The Italian Wall Lizard is native to the Italian Peninsula, Sicily, and the North Adriatic Coast.
- The most common pathway for introduction was probably accidental movement via cargo and trade between Italy and other islands.
- First reported in the United States in Kansas in the 1950s. Further reports were made in New York in 1966, New Jersey in 1984, California in 1994, and Connecticut in 2014.
- Popularity as a pet has resulted in escapes and intentional releases.

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**

CLEAN & DRAIN & DRY

Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/68192>

