



## Podarcis bocagei - Bocage's Wall Lizard



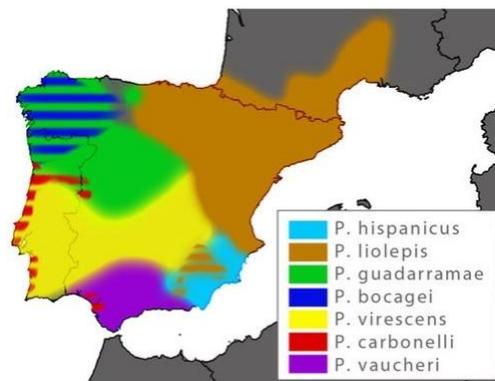
Male: E / Montes de León, 06.09.2019 - Adult males show greenish backs but no green on flanks.

*Podarcis bocagei* lives in the same area as its closest relative, *Podarcis guadarramae* - but Bocage's Wall Lizard has occupied another ecological niche: It survives in areas which are too cold for other Wall Lizards (dune areas at the Atlantic coast or mountain meadows). It is more ground dwelling than other Iberian *Podarcis* species but climbs on dry stone walls occasionally for basking.

*Podarcis bocagei* occurs in north-western Iberia from the Cantabrian Mountains and Galicia to Portugal (to the Duoro River).

Bocage's Wall Lizard may co-occur with the following species:

- *Podarcis guadarramae* has a more slender body and a more pointed snout. *Podarcis bocagei* - but not *Podarcis guadarramae* - shows continuous light dorsolateral lines both in males and females.
- At the Portuguese Atlantic coast the ranges of *Podarcis bocagei* and *Podarcis carbonelli* overlap. *Podarcis carbonelli* has blue outer ventral scales and greenish flanks. *Podarcis bocagei* has no blue outer ventral scales and shows green backs, but no green flanks.
- *Podarcis bocagei* can be distinguished from *Podarcis muralis* as it has no blue outer ventral scales and - also in males - shows a continuous light dorsolateral line. Females have a dark supra-dorsolateral line which is generally absent in female *Podarcis muralis*.



The (approximate) distribution area of *Podarcis bocagei* covers the north-western part of the Iberian Peninsula.



Male: E / Montes de León, 06.09.2019 - This rather dark specimen shows the characteristic yellow under side.



Male: E / Montes de León, 06.09.2019 - Unlike *Podarcis carbonelli*, *Podarcis bocagei* shows no blue outer ventral scales.



Female: E / Montes de León, 06.09.2019 - A female with contrasting pattern.



Female: E / Parque Natural Lago de Sanabria (Zamora), 19.09.2017: Note the characteristic dark supra-dorsolateral stripe.



Male: E / Parque Natural Lago de Sanabria (Zamora), 03.09.2011: A male with whitish (instead of yellow) underside.



The Montes de León - home of *Podarcis bocagei*, *Iberolacerta galani* and *Lacerta schreiberi*.

