

Bestand, Saisonalität und Morphologie einer Population der Mauereidechse (*Podarcis muralis*) bei Innsbruck (Nordtirol, Österreich)

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Population density, seasonality and morphology of *Podarcis muralis* in the central Inn valley (Innsbruck, Northern Tyrol, Austria)

We investigated a free ranging population of *Podarcis muralis maculiventris*-West at the Alpenzoo Innsbruck (650–740 m a. s. l.), a site which is located at a south facing slope in the centre of in the Inn valley where the species has been known to have its regional stronghold for a long time. Within the Alpenzoo (4 ha) a 0.42 ha large subarea comprising 64 separated patches with suitable habitat structures for wall lizards has been surveyed from late March until late October 2011 by 89 standardized counts. The overall population at this subarea was estimated to comprise about 160 to 200 adults and about 80 juveniles. Despite of the submontane location of the Alpenzoo, adult lizards already were fully active at the end of March and first juveniles were registered already in early July. In addition, the number of adult animals was lower in July and August than in the spring and decreased at a constant rate over the observation time until October. There were significant differences in the densities of lizards between patches, but favourable larger patches (size range 90–185 m²; n = 27) were occupied by 5 up to 18 adult lizards which accounts for high densities of 3.5–10 individuals/100 m². In one case a small patch of 33 m² was even occupied by 12 adults (36/100 m²). Males were larger and heavier than females in our population, and, overall, with an average mass of 6 g and a snout-vent length of 66 mm adults of the investigated *Podarcis muralis* group were larger and heavier than those of most other European populations of wall lizards. The colouration and markings of lizards showed extraordinarily high individual variability and were only partly in accordance with published descriptions for individuals of the Southern Alps lineage. In particular, green-backed individuals that hitherto have been stated to be diagnostic for lizards belonging to Central Italian and Venetian clades were also present in our population. We therefore conclude that either a simple phenotypic assignment of wall lizards to evolutionary lineages is not reliable or that – as in many other parts of Central Europe – a so far undetected introgression of non-native lineages originating from Italy has already occurred even in the central Inn valley.

Key words: Reptilia, *Podarcis muralis*, *maculiventris*-haplotype, postglacial isolated autochthonous population, introgression threats, seasonal density patterns, phenology, morphometrics, phenotypic variation.

Zusammenfassung

Wir untersuchten von Ende März bis Ende Oktober 2011 im Gelände des Alpenzoos Innsbruck (650–740 m ü. NN), der im Zentrum des Nordalpenareals von *P. m. maculiventris*-West liegt, eine dort seit langem bekannte, freilebende Population. Wir be-