

Verbreitung, Bestandssituation und Lebensräume autochthoner und allochthoner Vorkommen der Mauereidechse (*Podarcis muralis* ssp.) in der Steiermark (Österreich)

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Distribution, conservation status and habitats of native and introduced common wall lizards (*Podarcis muralis* ssp.) in Styria (Austria)

Since 2014 investigations on the distribution and the conservation status of the common wall lizard in Styria were conducted and intended for four vegetation periods. In 2015 investigations within the native range in Central Styria (middle Mur valley, Greater Graz and adjacent hills) revealed an extensive distribution of the Italian subspecies *Podarcis m. maculiventris*-East (Venetian clade, 48.8 % of records). Nevertheless, an occurrence of other introduced subspecies/genetic lineages can not be excluded. Contrary to the impression of a wide range of *P. muralis* in Styria indicated from distribution the species exists mainly at small-scale dimensioned locations which could be connected through batters or outskirts of forests. At the valley plains of the study area nearly all recorded common wall lizard sightings turned out to be of allochthonous origin. Compared to native populations I detected a remarkably higher population density within these introduced populations. Additionally, suboptimal and poorly structured habitats – atypical for *Podarcis muralis muralis* – are frequently occupied by introduced wall lizards. Within one native population (Graz-Gösting) introgression of introduced wall lizards could be detected based on genetic analysis. In this area native wall lizards find favourable habitats along adjacent hills and their stony slopes. The reduced accessibility of these habitats protects them from anthropogenic influences. Native wall lizard populations are linked to highly structured habitats (stony slopes, forest edges, a scarce herb layer, and deadwood). Due to their protection status additional surveys on introduced populations, the dispersion of neophyte groves (especially *Ailanthus* and *Buddleja*) at mining sites and human settlements as well as the influence of succession at important sites should be carried out.

Key words: Reptilia, *Podarcis muralis*, common wall lizard, native, introduced, distribution, habitat, Styria, Austria.

Zusammenfassung

Seit 2014 wird eine landesweite, für vier Vegetationsperioden geplante Bestandsaufnahme der Mauereidechse in der Steiermark durchgeführt. Die Untersuchungen des Jahres 2015 fanden in dem zentralen Verbreitungsgebiet der Art in der Steiermark (Mittleres Murtal, Großraum Graz und angrenzendes Bergland) statt, in dem eine weite Verbreitung der italienischen Unterart *Podarcis m. maculiventris*-Ost (Venetien-Linie, 48,8 % der Fundorte) festgestellt wurde. Ein Vorkommen sonstiger allochtho-