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LACERTIDS

Ibiza Wall Lizard

Podarcis pityusensis

Podarcis pityusensis is a robust, diurnal lizard from Ibiza, Formentera and the surrounding islets of the Balearics. It reaches 15-25 cm including the tail, is most often greenish with a pale stripe along the side and feeds on small arthropods, especially ants, and a little plant matter. It can live to a great age. Many island populations have their own colours and size. The species is threatened in the wild.

Family: Lacertidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-25 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-30 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rocky terrain and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**100 × 50 × 50 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-30 °C**
Basking spot	**40-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**12-15 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects, fruit and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**18-24 months**
Clutch size	**1-4 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-3**
Incubation	**30-43 days** at 29-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex A**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little documented knowledge exists about the care of *Podarcis pityusensis*. The climate of the range is hot and dry with mild winters, and *Podarcis lilfordi* from the same islands has almost the same requirements.
TEMPERATURE	The gradient is the most important thing. The basking spot should be 40-45 °C at the surface, measured with an infrared thermometer, and the rest of the enclosure 22-30 °C by day.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be moderate: 40-60 % by day. The enclosure must be able to dry out completely, because still, humid air causes skin problems and fungus.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Podarcis pityusensis* is diurnal and lives in full sun, so the enclosure needs strong heat and UVB light. It belongs to Ferguson zone 3, with a UV index of about 3-5 at the basking spot.
FEEDING	*Podarcis pityusensis* eats mostly small arthropods and also takes a little plant matter.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Podarcis pityusensis* is fast and shy in the enclosure, but active and curious when it feels secure. Males are territorial, and keeping two males together is not recommended.
NATIVE RANGE	Spain.