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LACERTIDS

Italian Wall Lizard

Podarcis siculus

Podarcis siculus is a robust, fast, diurnal lizard that basks on rocks, walls and ruins in Italy and along the Adriatic. It reaches 15-25 cm including the tail and feeds on insects and some plant matter. The species needs sun, UVB, a large enclosure with rock structure and a cold brumation, and it does best with an outdoor enclosure in summer.

Family: Lacertidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-25 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**5-15 g**
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rocky terrain and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 50 × 50 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-32 °C**
Basking spot	**40-50 °C**
Temperature, night	**14-18 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**5-10 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects, plants and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**10-14 months**
Clutch size	**2-12 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-3**
Incubation	**35-50 days** at 25-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A small glass enclosure is too small for *Podarcis siculus*. A pair needs at least 120 × 50 × 50 cm (length × width × height), and a male with several females more. The species is larger and more active than *Podarcis muralis*.
TEMPERATURE	The gradient is the most important thing. The basking spot must be 40-50 °C at the surface, measured with an infrared thermometer, and the rest of the enclosure 24-32 °C by day.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity must be moderate: 40-60 % by day, and higher (up to 70-80 %) at night, when the animals sleep in hiding. The enclosure must dry out completely during the day.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Podarcis siculus* is diurnal and a true sun-lover. The enclosure needs a powerful heat spot and UVB light.
FEEDING	*Podarcis siculus* is omnivorous with the emphasis on animal food.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Podarcis siculus* is fast, shy and territorial. The males mark territory with body language and scent trails, and two males in the same enclosure fight until the weaker one is stressed, loses weight or gets bite injuries.
NATIVE RANGE	Italy, France, Switzerland, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro.