

# INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

## ITALIAN WALL LIZARD

(*Podarcis siculus*)

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS ANIMAL?

#### DESCRIPTION

Italian Wall Lizards...

- Are medium-sized lizards, reaching up to 9 cm snout to vent (base of tail) length.
- Have long, slender bodies with tails up to twice the body length.
- Can vary in colour with green, yellow, olive, or light brown on the top of body and whiteish to grey below.
- Show two green stripes down the back on either side of a center row of dark brown spots.
- Do NOT have spots or blotches on the belly or throat.



Photo credit: Richard Bartz, Wikimedia Commons

**REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES**

Download the App!



[www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species](http://www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species)

#### PRIMARY THREAT:

*Italian Wall Lizards are intense competitors and, if established, could negatively impact B.C.'s native lizard species, the Northern Alligator Lizard (*Elgaria coerulea*), through competition for food and habitat.*

#### SPREAD

Italian Wall lizards have spread outside of their native range as stowaways within cargo shipments, often shipments of garden supplies or plants, and through the pet trade. This species is oviparous (egg-laying) and will often lay multiple clutches of 2-12 eggs (average is 5-6) in one year. Sexual maturity is usually reached after

one year for males and one or two years for females. While they are active in their native range year-round, Italian Wall Lizards living in cold climates (i.e., New York State) appear to hibernate during winter. They have an adaptable diet; often the main food is arthropods with other items including small molluscs, crustaceans, plant matter, small reptiles, and small mammals.

A wide variety of habitats are known to be suitable for Italian Wall Lizards. They are found in grassland, meadow, coastal dunes, urban parks and gardens, open forests, agricultural areas, and buildings.



Photo credit: Ansel Oomman, Bugwood.org

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species>



# ITALIAN WALL LIZARD (*Podarcis siculus*)



Photo credit: Valerio Sbordon, iNaturalist.

## DISTRIBUTION & STATUS

As the name suggests, Italian Wall Lizards are native to Italy. They can now be found in many other locations including the Mediterranean, Greece, the U.K., Africa, and the U.S.

This species has only been reported in B.C. once; a single Italian Wall Lizard was captured from South Vancouver in 2019. The closest known population is established on Orcas Island in Washington and has been there at least 12 years.

## LOOK-ALIKES:

Italian Wall Lizards could be mistaken for another invasive lizard found in B.C, the Common Wall Lizard (*P. muralis*) or for the Northern Alligator Lizard (B.C. native). Italian Wall Lizards do NOT have any dark spots on their throat or belly while Common Wall lizards do.

The native Northern Alligator Lizard is a stockier lizard with no green colouration; they are brown overall, with a pale belly and dark blotches or a bronze stripe down the back.



Photo credit: Gavin Hanke, iNaturalist.

## REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

[www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species](http://www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species)

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Learn to identify Italian Wall Lizards.
- Do not possess, breed, release, sell or transport live Italian Wall Lizards in B.C.
- Check for stowaways in transported materials, especially garden supplies or natural materials.
- Raise awareness to avoid the spread of this species into B.C.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Italian Wall Lizards are very aggressive, particularly towards lizards of other species but also towards others of their own species!

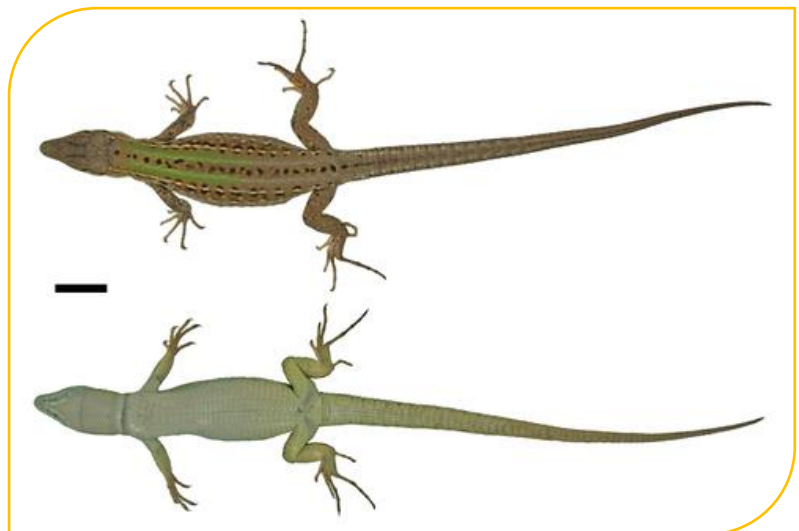


Photo credit: Gavin Hanke

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species>

