

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Podarcis lilfordi in Appendix II.

B. PROFONENT

The Kingdom of Spain.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

- 11. Class: Reptilia
- 12. Order: Squamata - Sauria
- 13. Family: Lacertidae
- 14. Species: Podarcis lilfordi (Günther, 1874)
- 15. Common Names: English: Lilford's wall lizard
French: lézard des Baléares
Spanish: Lagartija Balear
- 16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

- 21. Distribution: The species is localized on small islets around Mallorca and Menorca (Balearic Islands, Spain), but absent from the two main islands. Reproductive isolation of the different populations has resulted in a number of geographic races (subspecies) (see Appendix A). The geographic variability of the species is scientifically interesting as an example of island micro-evolution.
- 22. Population: Populations trends and threats vary greatly with each subspecies and each islet (see Appendix A and B).
- 23. Habitat: Small, rock-like island, often very small. Most of the islets are much smaller than 1 sq. km. The lizard, and other populations on most of the islets are constantly under threat that a natural or man-made disaster will completely wipe them out.

The recent population explosion of gulls (Larus argentatus), probably prey on the lizards, forms a serious threat to some lizard populations (Mayol, in litt., 1986).

3. Trade Data

- 31. National Utilization: No relevant national use of the species, except for scientific purposes, is known to proponent. Some of the islets, especially of the Cabrera group, are used as target practice or for other military purposes. Some of the islets have

lighthouses. No development of tourist facilities has taken place yet, but this may be a possibility in the future (Mayol, in litt., 1986).

32. Legal International Trade: Legal trade does not exist at present, the species is fully protected by Spanish law. The lizards were caught in large numbers in former times, affecting many of the small islet populations. In the beginning of the century, specimens were caught in large numbers for the benefit of science. Taxonomists were interested to study the geographic variability and made fishermen catch large numbers of them, often on the most isolated islets.

During the 1960's and 1970's, the species was caught in large numbers for the pet trade. Data on this trade, however, are scarce. Records of numbers offered by pet shops in the Netherlands, between c. 1970 and 1980, indicate their popularity in this period, and are as follows (Bergmans, pers. comm.):

Lacerta lilfordi (subspecies unknown, but melanistic):
Offered in 1973 (once), 1974 (once), 1975 (twice), 1977 (once).

Lacerta lilfordi lilfordi: Offered in 1972 (three times), 1973 (once, 23 specimens), 1974 (once) and 1975 (once).

One report states the capture in the 1970's of 500 specimens of the melanistic nominate subspecies (Martínez Rica, 1982).

The United Kingdom, as one of the very few countries in the world, has registered imports and applications of non-CITES species. 250 and part of 400 specimens of Podarcis lilfordi were imported from the Balearics in 1980. Large numbers were applied for between 1979 and 1981 and a total of 160 applied for in 1983 (Groombridge, in litt., 1985).

33. Illegal Trade: Tourists, from time to time, take lizards as souvenirs or pets. In western European pet shops, the species is still offered for sale despite its national and international protection. Trade between the Balearics and F.R. Germany has recently been a reason for discussion in court (Corbett, in litt., 1986).
34. Potential Trade Threats: Threats may come from increasing tourism to the Balearics, collecting by terrarium fanciers, traders, etc.

In recent years, the problems of large scale commercial collection have been reduced or, possibly, even eliminated. No commercial capture has been noticed in 5 years. However, the fact remains that some private collectors use scientific pretexts to obtain permission to catch these species. Only serious herpetologists, applying for official permission, are granted to catch limited numbers, and only from large populations (Mayol, in litt. 1985).

Effective border controls, however, are difficult with the large number of people visiting the area each year. The listing of Balearic lizards in Appendix II of CITES could help to improve

the situation. It is a political aim of the European Community to reduce border controls to a minimum (or even abolish them completely) and it is rather unlikely that illegal catches of these animals will be stopped casually at the Spanish border, hence, efficiently protected only by national legislation. The listing of the species in CITES would give the possibility to any European country to help Spain in protecting its wildlife by controlling keepers outside Spain.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Protected by Spanish legislation (Real Decreto 3181/1980) since 1981. This law forbids the export, capture, killing or keeping of the species (with exceptions for scientific purposes).
42. International: The species is included in Appendix II of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and their Natural Habitats of 1979 (the Berne Convention).
43. Additional Protection Needs: Increasing tourist pressure may soon reach the smallest islets. Pleasure boating, disturbance by visitors and the increase of domestic animals may form a serious threat to some of the subspecies. Uncontrolled captures may wipe out an entire population. Control at the border of receptor countries will reduce this threat (see 34.).

5. Information on Similar Species

A proposal to include Podarcis pityusensis, the Ibiza wall lizard, in Appendix II is added. Details about possible look-alike problems with these two species and with other lizards are given in the Podarcis pityusensis proposal.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

7. Additional Remarks

8. References

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Subspecies of Podarcis lilfordi

(After Mayol, 1985: Unidad de Vida Silvestre, 1984; Martínez Rica, 1981 and Salvador, 1979 and 1984).

addayae	Addaya	Population relatively small (Mayol, 1985)
balearica	Addaya Dey Ray Island Sargantana Robello	
brauni	Colóm Island	Shy and numerous
colomi	El Colomer	Abudant and shy
conejeræ	Conejeræ Island	
espongicola	Sponge Island	The islet is 0.004 sq. km. with an evaluated population of c. 15 specimens (Unidad de Vida silvestre, 1984)
estelicola	Estel de Fora	The islet is 0.001 sq. km., evaluated population 50 specimens
	Estel des Dos Cols	The islet is 0.003 sq. km., evaluated population 20 specimens
fahrae	Foradada	Population safe
fenni	Del Porros Island	Safe and abundant
giglioli	Sa Dragonera	Population decreased
hartmanni	Malgrats	Population decreased
hospitalis		
imperialensis	Imperial	
jordansi	Guardis	Safe and abundant
	Moltona	Safe and abundant
	Fræres	The island was destroyed recently, population extinct
kuligæ	Cabrera Island	
	Na Redona	
	Fonoi Gros	The island is 0.01 sq. km., evaluated population 50 specimens
	Fonoi Petit	The islet is 0.001 sq. km., evaluated population 6 specimens
	Ses Rates	The islet is 0.002 sq. km., evaluated population 10 specimens
lilfordi	De l'Aire	Formerly considered to be in danger of extinction, now safe and abundant
nigerrina	Sas Bledas	The islet is 0.006 sq. km., evaluated population 88 specimens
planae	Plana Island	
probrae	Na Probra Island	
rodriguezii	Ratas Island	The island is opposite the Port of Mao on Menorca, rebuilding of this port destroyed the ssp's habitat. The ssp. is most certainly extinct
sargantanae	Sargantana	
toronis	Toro Island	Small and very rare
xapaticola	Xapat Gros	The islet is 0.006 sq. km., evaluated population 300 specimens
	Xapat Petit	
	La Teula	The islet is 0.004 sq. km., evaluated population 84 specimens

Status of the subspecies (Mayol, in litt., 1986)

Endemic populations which are very much reduced, endangered or on the verge of extinction: Podarcis lilfordi espongicola, P. l. estelicola, P. l. nigerrina, P. l. toronis. The subspecies P. l. rodriguezii is most certainly extinct at present.

Endemic vulnerable, relict populations, occurring in vulnerable areas, with valuable biological aspects, although at present no immediate threat: Podarcis lilfordi, all other subspecies.