

## Wall Lizard *Podarcis muralis*



*The wall lizard is most commonly found on the north east and east corner of the Island. Its largest population is found in Gorey and Mont Orgueil castle. Smaller populations are scattered around fortifications and gardens.*

**Size** – Adult individuals reach on average 20cm long, of which up to two-thirds might be tail. They measure about 5-7cm from their snout to their vent.

**Features** – The wall lizard shows considerable variation in pattern and colour across Europe, like in Jersey. Colouration on top is generally beige –olive coloured background and a lighter throat and belly, which can vary in colour from cream to bright orange, pink or red in males. Red throats and belly coloration is commonly observed in males found in Jersey. They have a variety of spots and stripes that vary between individuals. Both sexes have dorsolateral streaks but males are more boldly spotted along the streaks. Both male and female can often be coloured with quite a green tint. They are diurnal (active during the day). Most likely to be seen on a sunny, warm day between April to October.



**Habitat** – As the name suggests, the wall lizard is most often seen on vertical surfaces including dry stone walls, rockeries, cliffs and rock piles, logs, loose stonework, crevices and any other nooks or crannies they can find, but are especially associated with human habitations like fortifications, castles and gardens. Their territory expands up to a 25-50 meter radius.



**Feeding** – They feed on a variety of insects (e.g. bugs, woodlice, earwigs, grasshoppers, butterflies, caterpillars, etc.) and spiders.

**Reproduction** – Wall lizards are oviparous (lay eggs). They lay between 5-8 eggs (a clutch). Usually laid in low growing vegetation exposed to sunshine in June to July. Incubation takes 9 – 11 weeks and the young emerge late August or early September (size of match sticks). They have different summer and winter nests/dens.

*The Wall lizard is protected by the Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000.*