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## Field report - Menorca April & October 2008

by [Marten van den Berg](#)

My main herpetological interest is in island populations of *Podarcis* lizards. So I went this year on two trips to the Balearic island of Menorca (Spain) where the endemic lizard *Podarcis lilfordi* lives on 16 small rocks and islands off the coast. *Podarcis lilfordi*, the only surviving pre-human land vertebrate in Menorca is, like Mallorca, absent on the main island, probably due to the introduction of predators during the occupation by humans. They only survived on isolated locations in the isles surrounding the main island. The most commonly known population is *Podarcis lilfordi lilfordi* (Günther, 1874) on illa de l'Aire, a melanistic subspecies without much colour differentiation within the population. I didn't visit this island, but concentrated on some other less known populations. I present here a few photographs taken during these trips, where weather conditions vary during the shots, but mainly sunny and not too much wind with temperatures between 19 and 24C.

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Report quality: **5.0/5**  
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Illa del Rei is situated in the harbour area of Maó. It is populated by *Podarcis lilfordi balearicus* (Bedriaga, 1879), a mostly brown coloured subspecies where the males have greenish backsides during spring, which disappears later in the season. This island was once the location of an army hospital, which now is ruined, but a dedicated group of Menorcan volunteers is trying to get the complex renovated in the last few years; see [www.islahospitalmenorca.org](http://www.islahospitalmenorca.org).

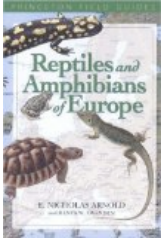




Pair *Podarcis lilfordi balearicus* (Illa del Rei 20-04-2008)

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Male *Podarcis lilfordi balearicus* (Illa del Rei 20-04-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi balearicus* (Illa del Rei 20-04-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi balearicus* (Illa del Rei 19-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi balearicus* (Illa del Rei 19-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi balearicus* (Illa del Rei 19-10-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi balearicus* (Illa del Rei 19-10-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi balearicus* (Illa del Rei 19-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi balearicus* (Illa del Rei 19-10-2008)



Juvenile *Podarcis lilfordi balearicus* (Illa del Rei 19-10-2008)

In the bay of Fornells there are three little islands inhabited by two subspecies, illa Sargantana and illa Ravells with *Podarcis lilfordi sargantanae* (Eisentraut, 1928), and the small illot des Porros with *Podarcis lilfordi Porrosicola* Pérez-Mellado & Salvador, 1988.



Illa Sargantana and Illa des Ravells (in front) (Fornells bay 22-04-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi sargantanae* (Illa Sargantana 22-04-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi sargantanae* (Illa Sargantana 22-04-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi sargentanae* (Illa Sargantana 22-04-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi sargentanae* (Illa Sargantana 22-04-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi sargentanae* (Illa Sargantana 22-04-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi sargentanae* (Illa Sargantana 21-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi sargentanae* (Illa Sargantana 21-10-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi sargentanae* (Illa Sargantana 21-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis liifordi sargantanae* (Illa Sargantana 21-10-2008)



Juvenile *Podarcis liifordi sargantanae* (Illa Sargantana 21-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis liifordi sargantanae* (Illa des Ravells 22-04-2008)





Female *Podarcis lilfordi sargentanae* (Illa des Ravells 22-04-2008)



Juvenile *Podarcis lilfordi sargentanae* (Illa des Ravells 21-10-2008)



Pair *Podarcis lilfordi sargentanae* (Illa des Ravells 21-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi sargantanae* (Illa des Ravells 21-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi sargantanae* (Illa des Ravells 21-10-2008)

*Podarcis lilfordi sargantanae* populations are also found on two other northern islands, illa de ses Bledes and illot d'en Tosqueta, which still have to be visited by me.

One of the islands with probably the youngest disconnection from mainland Menorca is illot des Porros (together with the later mentioned Escull de Binicodrell).



Illot des Porros (22-04-2008)



Habitat illot des Porros (21-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi porrosicola* (Illot des Porros 22-04-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi porrosicola* (Illot des Porros 22-04-2008)



Pair *Podarcis lilfordi porrosicola* (Illot des Porros 21-10-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi porrosicola* (Illot des Porros 21-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi porrosicola* (Illot des Porros 21-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi porrosicola* (Illot des Porros 21-10-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi porrosicola* (Illot des Porros 21-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi porrosicola* (Illot des Porros 21-10-2008)

The most northern island near Menorca is illa des Porros or illa Sanitja, inhabited with *Podarcis lilfordi fenni* (Eisentraut 1928), which I only visited in spring.



Illa des Porros or illa Sanitja (20-04-2008)



Habitat illa des Porros (25-04-2008)



Adult *Podarcis lilfordi fenni* (Illa des Porros 25-04-2008)



Adult *Podarcis lilfordi fenni* (Illa des Porros 25-04-2008)



Adult *Podarcis lilfordi fenni* (Illa des Porros 25-04-2008)



Adult *Podarcis lilfordi fenni* (Illa des Porros 25-04-2008)



Adult *Podarcis lilfordi fenni* (Illa des Porros 25-04-2008)



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Adult *Podarcis lilfordi fenni* (Illa des Porros 25-04-2008)



Adult *Podarcis lilfordi fenni* (Illa des Porros 25-04-2008)



Adult *Podarcis lilfordi fenni* (Illa des Porros 25-04-2008)

On the north-western coast off Port d'Addaia I visited the two main islands illa Gran d'Addaia and illa Petita d'Addaia with *Podarcis lilfordi addayae* (Eisenraut, 1928) and another small islet Illot d'en Carbó with *Podarcis lilfordi carbonerae* Pérez-Mellado & Salvador, 1988.



Male *Podarcis lilfordi addayae* (Illa Gran d'Addaia 24-04-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi addayae* (Illa Gran d'Addaia 24-04-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi addayae* (Illa Gran d'Addaia 24-04-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi addayae* (Illa Petita d'Addaia 24-04-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi addayae* (Illa Petita d'Addaia 24-04-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi addayae* (Illa Petita d'Addaia 24-04-2008)



Juvenile *Podarcis lilfordi addayae* (Illa Petita d'Addaia 24-04-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi addayae* (Illa Petita d'Addaia 24-04-2008)

The distribution of *Podarcis lilfordi addayae* also extends to the small rock of illiot de Ses Àligues, but it is uncertain if this population is still present.



Illot de Ses Àligues (24-04-2008)

Until 2002 the location of *Podarcis lilfordi carbonerae* was unknown. The subspecies was described in 1988 on specimen in the collection of Museum Alexander König in Bonn. It is a small population on the islet Illot d'en Carbó in front of Port d'Addaia. This subspecies is considered by Valentin Pérez-Mellado mostly to look like the *Podarcis lilfordi fenni* population. In my observations I found a general tendency to a darker tail, and I even spotted two complete melanistic specimen during my visit.



Habitat and most of the island of illot d'en Carbó (24-04-2008)



Adult *Podarcis lilfordi carbonerae* (Illot d'en Carbó 24-04-2008)



Adult *Podarcis lilfordi carbonerae* (Illot d'en Carbó 24-04-2008)



Adult *Podarcis lilfordi carbonerae* (Illot d'en Carbó 24-04-2008)



Adult *Podarcis lilfordi carbonerae* (Illot d'en Carbó 24-04-2008)



Adult *Podarcis lilfordi carbonerae* (Illot d'en Carbó 24-04-2008)



Adult *Podarcis lilfordi carbonerae* (Illot d'en Carbó 24-04-2008)



Adult *Podarcis lilfordi carbonerae* (Illot d'en Carbó 24-04-2008)



Melanistic *Podarcis lilfordi carbonerae* (Illot d'en Carbó 24-04-2008)



Juvenile *Podarcis lilfordi carbonerae* (Illot d'en Carbó 24-04-2008)

The last two locations I have visited are two rocks off the southern coast near Sant Tomas, Esculls de Binicodrell, populated by *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* Pérez-Mellado & Salvador, 1988. The bigger one inhabited by a population with a colour distribution also seen in other locations, but the smaller one with only brown colours. Even in the juvenile stage I spotted only specimen without the greenish tail which are common on the other locations I have visited.



Escull de Binicodrell Petit and Gros (21-04-2008)



Habitat Escull de Binicodrell Gros (24-10-2008)





Male *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* (Escull de Binicodrell Gros 21-04-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* (Escull de Binicodrell Gros 21-04-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* (Escull de Binicodrell Gros 21-04-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* (Escull de Binicodrell Gros 24-10-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* (Escull de Binicodrell Gros 24-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* (Escull de Binicodrell Gros 24-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* (Escull de Binicodrell Gros 24-10-2008)



Juvenile *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* (Escull de Binicodrell Gros 24-10-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* (Escull de Binicodrell Gros 24-10-2008)



Habitat Escull de Biniodrell Petit (24-10-2008)



Male *Podarcis liifordi codrellensis* (Escull de Biniodrell Petit 24-10-2008)



Male *Podarcis liifordi codrellensis* (Escull de Biniodrell Petit 24-10-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* (Escull de Binicodrell Petit 24-10-2008)



Male *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* (Escull de Binicodrell Petit 24-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* (Escull de Binicodrell Petit 24-10-2008)



Female *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* (Escull de Binicodrell Petit 24-10-2008)



Juvenile *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* (Escull de Binicodrell Petit 24-10-2008)



Juvenile *Podarcis lilfordi codrellensis* (Escull de Binicodrell Petit 24-10-2008)

The two subspecies which are not covered by these trips are *Podarcis lilfordi lilfordi* (Günther, 1874) from illa de l'Aire, *Podarcis lilfordi brauni* (Müller, 1927) from illa d'en Colom and the undescribed population from illot d'en Mel. Hopefully during my next stay on Menorca, June 2009, I get a chance to cover them as well.

Finally walking on the main island I stumbled unintentionally into the following specimen:



*Podarcis siculus* – the new *Podarcis* in town (all over Menorca and three islands)



*Tarentola mauritanica*



*Tarentola mauritanica*



*Tarentola mauritanica*



*Testudo hermanni*



*Testudo hermanni*

And there is still a lot more herpetofauna on Menorca. Not seen, but next time I'll give it a bit more attention: *Bufo viridis*, *Hyla meridionalis* (only heard in the distance), *Emys orbicularis*, *Hemidactylus turcicus*, *Scelarcis perspicillata*, *Macroprotodon mauritanicus*, *Rhinechis scalaris* and *Natrix maura*.

List of observed species (4):

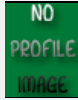
*Podarcis lilfordi*  
*Podarcis siculus*  
*Tarentola mauritanica*



**Comments (2)**

Send comment 500 characters left

**Ilian Velikov**



Interesting report!:)It's nice that you managed to photograph that much subspecies of the Lilfordi's Wall Lizard!

11/11/2008 16h22 - (CET)

**Daniel Phillips**



Great set of sub-species, well done !

11/11/2008 16h20 - (CET)