

*Lacerta danfordi* (GÜNTHER, 1876)  
Danford's Lizard

**Identification:** Total length up to 23 cm. Rostral in contact with external nares; 2 postnasals; usually 5, rarely 4 or 6 supralabials in front of subocular. 9-15 supraciliary granules form a complete row; occipital small; masseteric small or not present; 52-64 rows of smooth dorsal scales at mid-trunk; ventrals in 6 longitudinal rows; femoral pores between 18-25. The dorsum changes from light bluish-green to light brown with dispersed small black spots and white flecks. Flanks darker colored and similarly spotted and flecked. The venter is lighter colored than dorsum, with black spots. During the breeding season, chin and throat are brick red, rarely bluish in males. In juveniles, the coloration is darker, with more prominent spots and flecks.

**Habitat & Biology:** Inhabits rocky areas and loose stone walls in forested or wooded areas not much removed from water. Feeds on insects. A female lays 3-8 eggs.

**Distribution:** Inhabits southern and western parts of Anatolia and some Aegean islands with a vertical distribution up to 1200 m. Represented with three subspecies in Turkey: The nominate race (*L. d. danfordi*) is found in western parts of Vilayet Adana and eastern parts of Vilayet İçel; *L. d. anatolica* WERNER, 1902 in W Anatolia Region north of Büyük Menderes River and *L. d. pelasgiana* MERTENS, 1959 inhabits W Anatolia Region south of Büyük Menderes River, the Lakes District to the vilayet boundary of Antalya. On the other hand, EISELT-SCHMIDTLER (1986) raised some of the races given above to the species level; and described *L. a. aegaea* under *L. anatolica*; *L. o. budaki*, *L. o. finikensis* and *L. o. ibrahimi* under a separate species *L. oertzeni*, and *L. d. bileki* under *L. danfordi*.



**54A. *Lacerta danfordi anatolica***



**54B. *Lacerta danfordi pelasgiana***