

Lacerta parva BOULENGER, 1887
Dwarf Lizard

Identification: A small lizard with a total length up to 10-14 cm. Rostral not in contact with external nares; 2 postnasals, rarely 1; 4 supralabials in front of the subocular. 29-43 rows of keeled dorsal scales at mid-trunk; ventrals in 6 or 8 longitudinal rows; femoral pores between 13-20. The dorsum is grayish or light brown with black and white maculations, similar markings also on the flanks. The venter is yellow or white in males, usually with blue or green markings on the lateral ventrals. Ventrals of the tail and limbs pinkish. In females, the venter is usually white, sometimes yellow, without the blue markings at the sides.

Habitat & Biology: Inhabits arid high steppes with sparse vegetation and rocky-soily substrates, and hides within the crevices of rocky mounds. Feeds on insects, spiders and earthworms. A female may deposit up to three egg clutches a season, each of 2-5 eggs.

Distribution: Known from Turkey and Armenia with a vertical distribution between 800-2000 m. Widespread in Middle and Eastern Anatolia.



58. *Lacerta parva*