

*Lacerta praticola* EVERSMANN, 1834  
Meadow Lizard

**Identification:** Total length up to 13 cm, or a little longer. Rostral usually does not contact external nares; usually a single postnasal; usually 4, rarely 3 or 5 supralabials in front of subocular. 32-43 rows of keeled longish dorsal scales at mid-trunk; ventrals in 6 longitudinal rows; femoral pores between 9-14. The dorsum is greenish light brown, with a dark brown or reddish vertebral stripe, continuous or broken down to spots and dashes. A dark stripe also on the flanks. The venter is greenish in males, yellowish in females.

**Habitat & Biology:** Inhabits forests and grasslands, usually the slopes near a stream, sometimes arboreal. Feeds on insects. A female lays 4-6 eggs.

**Distribution:** Known in the east from Caucasus and NW Iran, in the west from Turkey, Bulgaria, former Yugoslavia, Romania and Hungary; with a vertical distribution up to 2000 m. In Turkey, a single subspecies, *L. p. pontica* LANTZ-CYREN, 1919 is known from the vicinity of the Bulgarian border in Turkish Thrace, but the presence of the species in Eastern Black Sea region is also a possibility.



60. *Lacerta praticola*