

## Necropsy findings in La Gomera giant lizards (*Gallotia bravoana*)

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The La Gomera Giant Lizard (*Gallotia bravoana*) is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List. The rediscovery of this species, presumably extinct, in the Risco de La Mérica (Valle Gran Rey, La Gomera) in 1999 drove to establish a specific recovery plan and a captive breeding programme in order to increase the number of individuals.

Since then captive lizards have been monitored closely and several anatomopathological studies have been carried out in order to determine the causes of mortality and main diseases affecting this species.

The most important lesions observed in the lizards necropsied during the period 2000/2005 included: multifocal granulomatous hepatitis, multifocal granulomatous poliserositis, fibrinopurulent poliserositis and fibrinopurulent pleuritis. Lesions caused by *Salmonella arizonae* in an outbreak during the summer of 2005 are also described and briefly discussed.