

Atlantolacerta andreanskyi (WERNER, 1929)

NT

Common names: Atlas Dwarf lizard, Andreansky's Lizard (E), Lézard d'Andreánszky (F), Lagartija del Toubkal (S).

Range: Endemic to Morocco.

Distribution in Morocco: Restricted to the High Atlas Mountains from Jebel Awlime in the west to Jebel Ayachi eastwards. *Atlantolacerta andreanskyi* apparently has a disjunct range with at least seven populations (Jebel Awlime, Toubkal–Oukaimeden, Jebel Sirwa, Tizi n'Tichka, Jebel Azourki, Outabati, Jebel Ayachi; BARATA *et al.* 2012a) isolated on mountaintops, disconnected by patches of unsuitable habitat (below 2,200 m a.s.l.).

Altitude: 2,200–3,500 m.

Identification: Small lizard up to about 5.5 cm SVL but generally around 4 cm. Adult females are often larger than males. Head and body not strongly depressed. Dorsal pattern with brown-greyish background and often with a dark vertebral stripe, flanks and narrow light dorsolateral stripes, although pattern may be reduced to spots in some adult males. Underside is whitish, sometimes greenish with in males frequently one minute dark spot on each ventral. Throat often with some dark spotting. In specific populations (for example in the Jebel Ayachi), the throat is reddish. Juveniles have a greenish-blue tail. Rostral scale separated from frontonasal scale, collar fairly smooth. Dorsal scales less numerous and relatively large for a rock-dwelling lacertid, and the smooth, broad preanal scale is often adorned with a dark spot.

Habitat: Found mainly among low thorny bushes, screes and boulders as well as in meadows and places lacking plant cover, especially in homogenous fallen rocks with small stones where the



Fig. 483: *Atlantolacerta andreanskyi*, portrait. Oukaimeden.

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Fig. 484: *Atlantolacerta adreanskyi*, female of the “*adreanskyi*” clade. Oukaimeden.

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Fig. 485: *Atlantolacerta adreanskyi*, juvenile of the “*adreanskyi*” clade. Oukaimeden.

P. GENIEZ



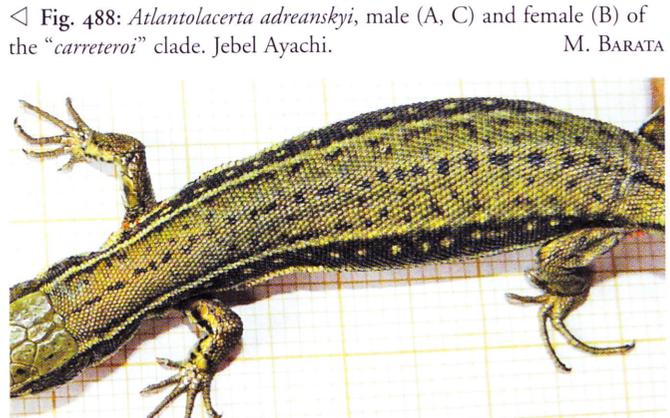
Fig. 486: *Atlantolacerta adreanskyi*, ventral aspect of a male of the “*adreanskyi*” clade. Oukaimeden.

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Fig. 487: *Atlantolacerta adreanskyi*, specimen of the “*martinezfreiriaae*” clade. Outabati.

M. BARATA



◁ Fig. 488: *Atlantolacerta adreanskyi*, male (A, C) and female (B) of the “carreteroï” clade. Jebel Ayachi. M. BARATA

Fig. 489: *Atlantolacerta adreanskyi* of the “kaliountzopoulouae” clade. Jebel Azourki. M. BARATA

three other sympatric lacertids, *Podarcis vaucheri*, *Scelarcis perspicillata* and *Timon tangitanus* are generally absent. Frequently encountered in the vicinity of small watercourses.

Biology: A ground-dwelling species that spends much time hidden in vegetation or under stones. It has a long hibernation period. Males bite the flank of females during copulation; females usually lay 1–3 eggs in a single clutch, but second clutches may occasionally be produced. *Atlantolacerta adreanskyi* feeds mainly on Homoptera, Coleoptera, Orthoptera, Diptera and Hymenoptera but can consume a variety of invertebrate prey items.

Remarks: *Atlantolacerta adreanskyi* is the type species of the monotypic genus *Atlantolacerta* ARNOLD, ARRIBAS & CARRANZA, 2007, endemic to Morocco. Genetic data from BARATA *et al.* (2012a) suggest that it may be a species complex, although lineages are difficult to distinguish by morphology alone (BARATA *et al.* (2015).



Fig. 490: *Atlantolacerta adreanskyi*, specimen of the “tarsoï” clade. Jebel Sirwa. M. BARATA

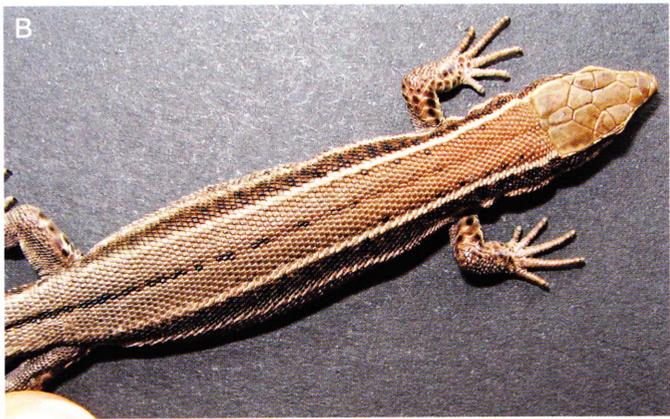


Fig. 491: *Atlantolacerta adreanskyi*, male (A) and female (B) of the “salvii” clade. Tizi n’Tichka.

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