

# EUROPEAN RED LIST OF REPTILES

## Tenerife Speckled Lizard (*Gallotia intermedia*)

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**The Tenerife Speckled Lizard, a species discovered in 1996 and restricted to the northwest of Tenerife (Spain). In historical times it is believed to have been widespread on Tenerife. It is presumed that the decline in this species was largely due to predation by introduced cats. A recovery action plan has been developed for this species. This species is listed as Critically Endangered in Europe, according to the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria.**

Living animals of the Tenerife Speckled Lizard (*Gallotia intermedia*) was discovered in 1996 in the Macizo de Teno in the extreme northwest of Tenerife island, in the Canary Islands (Spain). It is now known from a small area of coastline in the extreme west of the island, and also from Montana de Guaza in the extreme south. It is believed that the species was once widespread throughout much of Tenerife.

There are approximately 40 isolated populations along 9 km of coastline, and many of these populations are now increasing as a result of the successful control of introduced predatory mammals.

This species inhabits rugged terrain, with rocks and boulders, often found on small rock ledges with sparse vegetation. The species is presumed to have once occurred in a variety of habitats across Tenerife. The species is largely herbivorous and it is an egg-laying species.



Photo © Philippe Geniez

The main threat to this lizard has been predation by feral cats and, to a lesser degree, by rats. It is presumed that the historical decline in this species was largely due to predation by cats. Several of the smaller populations, consisting of a few individuals, may be threatened by the effects of inbreeding.

Measures to control access by cats to some of the remaining populations, such as fencing, have been implemented. A recovery action plan has been developed for this species. The species may still exist in other inaccessible parts of Tenerife; more field surveys are urgently needed.

This species is listed as Critically Endangered in Europe, according to the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria.