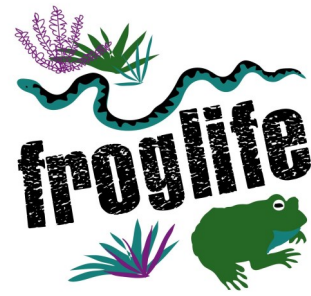


GREEN LIZARD

(*Lacerta bilineata*)



Identification:

- Adults up to 35 cm in length (including tail). (Largest lizard encountered in the UK.)
- Stocky body and relatively short head.
- Overall green colouration.
- Females: very variable in colour but may be green or brown, sometimes with dark blotches. Often have 2 or 4 narrow, white lines (sometimes edged with dark spots) on flanks.
- Males: usually green with stippling on body. Dark coloured head with light spots. Mature males have a blue throat and cheeks.
- Juveniles: beige, often with dark spots or white lines on flanks.
- Long tail: often twice body length.



Distribution:

- Non-native species.
- Found in southern areas of England.
- Native to Jersey.
- Native to, and common across, continental Europe.

Ecology:

- Active during the day.
- Prefer densely vegetated habitats, such as woodland, scrub or heathland that is close to open, sunny areas.

Lifecycle:

- Sexual maturity is reached in second spring.
- Males are very territorial and often fight, especially during the mating period.
- Females lay 6 to 25 eggs (13-20 mm in length) in humid, warm sites.
- Incubation period is 7-15 weeks.

N.B. The release of exotic species into the wild is a criminal offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.



INFORMATION
SHEET

Froglife is a UK wildlife charity committed to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles - working with people, enhancing lives together for a healthier planet. Find out more about our education projects and activities at www.froglife.org