



**Scientific Name:**

*Podarcis filfolensis*

**English:**

Maltese Wall Lizard

**Maltese:**

*il-gremxula ta' Malta*

The Maltese Wall Lizard is quite common to come across, especially during hot summer months, but it is also unique in a number of ways.

Primarily, it is known to be a Pelago-Maltese endemic, meaning that it is confined to the Maltese, and neighbouring Pelagian Islands. There are five different types (infraspecific taxa) of this species, four of which occur in the Maltese Islands, and the fifth known from Linosa and Lampione (Pelagian Islands, Italy). There is possibly another type restricted to Cominotto and nearby islets.

The most common one is that found throughout the islands of Malta, Gozo and Comino; this is greenish or brownish in colour, and often speckled. There are then those restricted to Filfla, Fungus Rock (Haġret il-Ġeneral) and St Paul's Islands (Selmunett). The former one is blackish in colour, with blue or pale blue spots, and interestingly it is the largest type. That found on Fungus Rock comes along with a reddish underside and bluish flanks; while St Paul's Islands' specimens are distinguished by a body colour that varies from brown to grey, with small black spots, together with a yellowish underside.

This species can be found in different habitat types, such as rocky steppes, garrigues, dry stone walls, fortifications, old houses, and gardens, amongst others; indeed, it is found in both rural and urban areas. A peculiarity is that this species is known to be highly opportunistic where its diet is concerned; it not only feeds on invertebrates, but also on various types of human food remains.