



Predator protection for wall lizards

Project Stuttgart 21 - Outdoor terrarium near Nellingen

This is green.

New homes.
For lizards.
Nature conservation.

no. 68

Experiences of the Stuttgart-Ulm project

Intermediate keeping of wall lizards from Stuttgart/Ober- and Untertürkheim in an open-air terrarium near Ostfildern-Nellingen

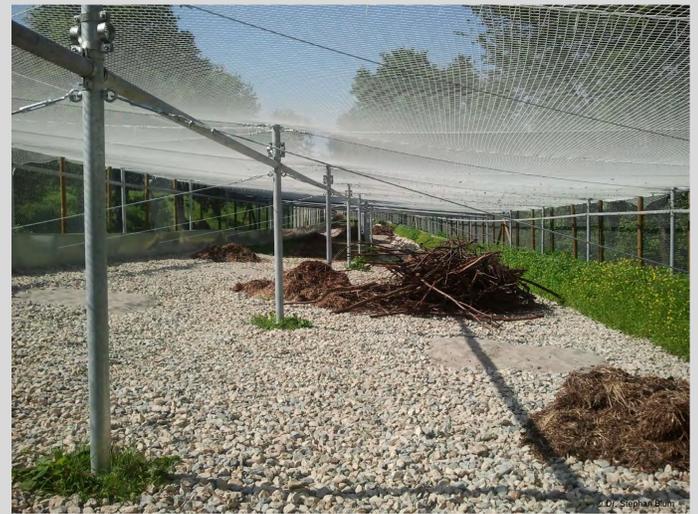
Background

- as wall lizards (*Podarcis muralis*) are listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive, they are subject to the strict protection of § 44 (1) Federal Nature Conservation Act and the regulations of the Environmental Damage Act.
- In Germany, the wall lizard is on the advance warning list. In Baden-Württemberg, it is regarded as highly endangered.
- Wall lizards commonly occur in quite some particular project areas of S 21

Necessity of compensation

- Requirements of habitat: dry, warm, rocky, stony sites with patchy vegetation, keep it open permanently, avoidance of shade, sufficient prey (insects, spiders)
- Search for areas: to find an ideal area, it is important to search within natural areas, biogeographical regions and the individual conditions of the respective potential area

Size of territory	5-62 m ² per adult
Size of habitat	20 to 1.500 m ² (on an average 80-200 m ²)
Overlapping territories	male rare, female frequent
Habitat for replacement	not less than 80 m ² /per adult



The fenced terrarium...

- massive steel posts hold the net that is up to 2.5 m high for protection against birds of prey
- wire mesh fence for protection against humans and animals
- recessed steel plates (80 cm deep in the ground and 70 cm above the surface) prevent the penetration of predators and the breaking out of lizards.
- steel sheets must be regularly cleared of overgrown vegetation to prevent lizards from escaping

...a secure habitat for lizards

- over 3.600 m²
- lizard habitat with gravel, pebbles, heaps of branches, sand lentils, dung heaps, bushes and sown green areas
- in 2014/15 about 560 (of which 362 were adults) wall lizards were caught with special lizard loops and brought to the specially built open-air terrarium.
- initial feeding with mealworms and crickets



Costs of around € 1.5 million

- construction of the terrarium, leasehold, green maintenance
- personnel- and time-consuming collection with the "lizard lasso" and long-term scientific monitoring
- Securing the cleared areas against recolonisation by other wall lizards

The occurrence of numerous young animals proves the successful accommodation and care of the lizards. After completion of the construction measures, the animals or their offspring from the terrarium can return to the area of origin. Before the animals are taken back there, however, the "new" habitat must have been upgraded by biotope structures (heaps of stones, dead wood piles, sand lentils).

This is green.

Climate protection.
Nature conservation.
Deutsche Bahn.

