AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Podarcis pityusensis in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Kingdom of Spain.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Reptilia

12. Order: Squamata - Sauria

13. Family: Lacertidae

14. Species: Podarcis pityusensis (Boscá, 1883)

15. Common Names: English: Ibiza wall lizard
French: lézard des Pityuses
Spanish: Lagartija de la Pitiusas

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: The species occurs on Ibiza and Formentera (Balearic Islands, Spain) and on a large number of small islets around Ibiza and Formentera. Reproductive isolation of the different populations has resulted in a number of geographic races (subspecies) (see Appendix A). The geographic variability of the species is scientifically interesting as an example of island micro-evolution. The species has been introduced in the harbour of Palma de Mallorca, and on a small islet in the bay of Palma. Small populations are now established.

22. Population: Populations, trends and threats vary greatly with each subspecies and each islet (see Appendix A and B).

23. Habitat: Small, rock-like islets. Most of the islets are smaller than 1 sq. km. The threat that a natural or man-made disaster will completely wipe out an entire population always exists. The recent population explosion of herring gulls (Larus argentatus) in the Balearic is threatening to some lizard populations (Mayol, in litt., 1986).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Specimens of the lizard population on Formentera have been caught with traps because of their damage to the crops, mainly tomatoes (Klingelhöfer and Sherpner, 1955). There is no information on similar captures in recent times. Some of the islets are used by fishermen or are used for touristic purposes (See Appendix A). However, tourism to the

small islets has decreased in recent years (Mayol, in litt., 1986). No relevant national use, except for scientific purposes, is known to the proponent.

32. Legal International Trade: Legal trade does not exist at present, the species is fully protected by Spanish law. In former times, the species was caught in large numbers, which affected also a number of the small islet populations.

In the beginning of the century, large numbers were caught by fishermen on behalf of taxonomists who were interested to study their geographic variability.

In the 1960's and 1970's, specimens were caught in large numbers for the pet trade. Records of pet shops in the Netherlands, between c. 1970 and c. 1980, offering herpetofauna species in this period indicate their popularity (Bergmans, unpublished data):

Podarcis pityusensis formenterae was offered six times between 1973 and 1976.
Podarcis pityusensis pityusensis was offered five times between 1970 and 1976.
Podarcis pityusensis kameriana was offered three times between 1975 and 1976.
Podarcis pityusensis maluquerorum was offered twice in 1970 and once in 1975.
Podarcis pityusensis ssp. unknown was offered nine times between 1972 and 1977.

Spoils of one commercial collecting trip by two Dutch animal traders, in 1966, 114 specimens of P. pityusensis formenterae, which did not survive transport, were deposited in the Natural History Museum of Leiden, in January 1967 (Hoogmoed, pers. comm.).

Only very few countries, like for example the United Kingdom, keep records of imports and/or applications of non-CITES species. Recent import data of the United Kingdom are as follows: 400 and part of 400 specimens were imported from the Balearics in 1980; 526 specimens in 1981 and 356 imported in 1982. A total of 250 was applied for in 1983 (Groombridge, in litt., 1985).

33. Illegal Trade: None is known to the proponent. The Balearic Islands, however, are very popular tourist resorts and doubtlessly tourists catch lizards and take them home as 'souvenirs". Despite national protection in Spain, Balearic lizards are still sold in a number of West European pet shops. The magnitude of this trade and numbers of specimens involved, however, are not available to the proponent.

34. Potential Trade Threats: Threats may come from increasing tourism, collecting by terrarium fanciers, traders, etc. Possibly, in recent year, the problems of commercial collection have been reduced or even eliminated. No commercial capture has been noticed in 5 years. However, the fact remains that some private collectors use scientific motives to obtain permission

to catch these species. Only serious herpetologists, applying for official permission, are granted to catch limited numbers, and only from large populations (Mayol, in litt. 1985).

Effective border controls, however, are difficult with the large number of people visiting the area each year. The listing of Balearic lizards in Appendix II of CITES could help to improve the situation. It is the political aim of the European Community to reduce border controls to a minimum (or even abolish them completely) and it is rather unlikely that illegal catches of these animals will be stopped casually at the Spanish border, hence, efficiently protected only by national legislation. The listing of the species in CITES would give the possibility to any European country to help Spain in protecting its wildlife by controlling keepers outside Spain.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Protected by Spanish legislation (Real Decreto 3181/1980) since 1981. This law forbids the export, capture, killing or keeping of the species (with exceptions for scientific purposes).

42. International: This species is included in the United States Endangered Species Act of 1981.

43. Additional Protection Needs: Increasing tourist pressure is now reaching the smallest islets. Pleasure boating, disturbance by visitors and the increase of domestic animals may form a serious threat to some of the subspecies. Effective border control is difficult with so many people visiting Ibiza and Formentera each year. Control at the border of receptor countries will reduce the risks of large scale captures and help Spanish authorities to effectuate national legislation.

5. Information on Similar Species

Podarcis pityusensis is closely related to Podarcis lilfordi, from the Balearic Islands. Both species show a number of similarities. A proposal to include Podarcis lilfordi in Appendix II is added.

Both species have relatively short tails and are characterized by the presence of well developed temporal scale, singular postnasale and mostly 4 supralabiala before the suboculare.

Podarcis pityusensis has flat, large temporal scales, with one large masseteric disk. The dorsal scales are slightly keeled, 55-68 around the body.

In Podarcis lilfordi, the temporal scales are more granular, rounded and more numerous. The masseteric disk is small and round. Dorsal scales are smooth, 59-91 around the body. The neck is swollen (Mertens and Wermuth, 1960).

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

7. Additional Remarks

Interbreeding of Podarcis pityusensis ssp. occurred since the first half of this century, when subspecies were introduced on uninhabited islets on account of colour experiments (Böhme and Eisentraut, 1981).

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Subspecies of Podarcis pityusensis

pityusensis	Ibiza Island	Still abundant in many places; however, a clear decrease in numbers has occurred between 1962 and 1978.
	Mallorca	Artificially introduced population in the harbour of Palma, maintain themselves fairly well.
affinis	Malvi Pla	Population moderate, may fluctuate widely in numbers. Genetic isolation has probably been broken by recent introduction of P. p. formenterae on the islet.
ahorcadosi	Penjals I.	
algae	Alga	Population must be considered entirely lost, due to increasing tourism from nearby Formentera and also due to interbreeding with lizards from Formentera.
calaesaladae	Cala Salada	Until now, no serious problems, human pressure is low and the population is large. The islet is vulnerable to flooding.
caldesiana	Caldés	The islet (0.02 sq. km.) is only a few kilometres off the Ibiza coast, increasing tourism may form a threat to the ssp. (evaluated population 33).
canaretensis	Canaret	The subspecies has recently been described, status unknown to the proponent. The islet is very small (0.003 sq. km.)
canensis	Caná	The islet lies opposite a much used beach and is often visited by tourists.
caragolensis	Caragoler	The population is scarce, the islet is vulnerable and may be flooded during heavy weather.
carlkochi	Conejera	The island is fairly large (4 sq. km.) and permanently inhabited. Rats and feral cats prey on the lizards. Nesting colony of gulls may form an additional threat.
""(?)	Bosque de Conejera	The population is moderate and used to the proximity of man, being somewhat indifferent to visitors. The islet has served as gun practice target from the coast of Ibiza.
characae	Characa	Little visited by tourists, population is moderately abundant. Fishermen used the islet to store their equipment.
espalmadoris	Espalmador	Population still quite abundant, even though the island became a centre of tourism in recent years and with an increased number of residents. Plans to make the island into a nature reserve were not brought into effect.
espardellensis	Espardell	
formenterae	Formentera	This subspecies is abundant and at present not threatened. It has been hunted in large numbers, mainly for sale and for scientific purposes.

frailensis	Frare Rock	The population is very small, the rock has been uninhabited and recolonized a few times in history. It is doubtful whether the subspecies is valid. Melanistic.
gastabiensis	Gastabi	Small rock, less than 200 m. diameter.
	Penjats	
	Negra del Norte	
	Espardell	Rocky, sparse vegetation (0.08 sq. km.).
gorrae	Bleda na Gorra	Islet 0.015 sq. km. ssp. sometimes synonimized with P.p. maluquerorum. Evaluated population 300.
grossae	Grossa de Santa Eulalia	
grueni	Trocados Island	Peninsula, interbreeding with P. p. formenterae (?).
hedwigkamerae	Margalida	Isolated, steep rock (0.013 sq. km.) Population almost undisturbed, estimated to be c. 200.
hortae	Hort Island	Sandy island (0.003 sq. km.) lizard population evaluated to be 30, vulnerable to increasing tourism.
intermedia	Negra	
kameriana	Espartar	Heavy human pressure (grass cutting), target practice, interbreeding (?).
maluquerorum	Bleda Islands (Bleda, Na Bosc Na Gorra)	Three islets and six rocks. Advanced differentiation, strong tendency to melanism. This ssp. has been taken in large numbers for scientific purposes and has been popular to terrarium keepers.
martinezi	Sal Rossa	
muradae	Murada	Steep rock, difficult to access. Plans exist to build a pleasure harbour.
negrae	Negra	
puercosensis	Puercos (Pou)	Small, vulnerable population.
purroigensis	Illots de Purroig	Small, vulnerable population.
ratae	Ratas Island	Heavy tourist pressure.
redonae	Redona de Santa Eulalia	
sabinae	Sabina Island	Probably extinct through mixing with P.p. formenterae.
schreitmueller	Malvi Redó	
subformenterae	Conejo de Formentera	Probably extinct.
tagomagensis	Tagomago	
torretensis	Torretas Island	Very flat islet, often entirely covered with waves. New populations are built up from nearby Espalmador.
verdrae	Verdrá Island	Large rock with cliffs in many places.
vedranellensis	Vedranell	
zenosis	Escull de l'Espartar	

Status of the Subspecies (After Martínes-Rica, 1981)

Endemic populations which are very much reduced, endangered or on the verge of extinction: affinis, caragolensis, frailensis, grueni, puercosenssi, purroigensis, ratae, torretensis.

Endemic vulnerable, relict populations, occurring in vulnerable areas, with valuable biological aspects, although at present no immediate threat: Podarcis pityusensis, all other subspecies, except pityusensis and formenterae.

Endemic populations, not occupying relict areas, but whose populations have been reduced considerably in recent times: Podarcis p. pityusensis, P. p. formenterae.