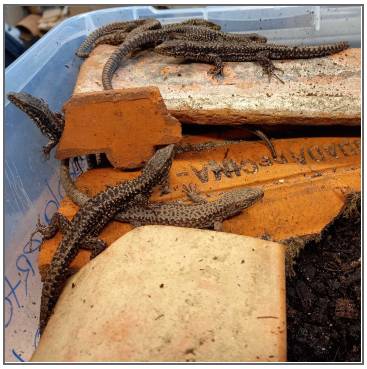

VERSION 2

OCT 27, 2023

OPEN ACCESS

DOI:
dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.5jyl8p1p9g2w/v2

Protocol Citation: Frederico M Barroso 2023. Husbandry guidelines for the safe brumation of two lacertid lizard species (Iberolacerta monticola and Podarcis lusitanicus) in laboratory conditions. **protocols.io** https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.5jyl8p1p9g2w/v2Version created by Frederico M Barroso

MANUSCRIPT CITATION:
Frederico M. Barroso, 2023. Husbandry guidelines for the safe brumation of two lacertid lizard species (*Iberolacerta monticola* and *Podarcis lusitanicus*) in laboratory conditions. **protocols.io.**

Husbandry guidelines for the safe brumation of two lacertid lizard species (Iberolacerta monticola and Podarcis lusitanicus) in laboratory conditions V.2

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ABSTRACT

Lacertid lizards are often used for a range of laboratory studies in reptile behaviour, physiology, ecology etc. However, there is a distinct lack of primary information regarding the husbandry of these animals under captive, laboratory conditions. This lack of information is even more apparent when looking for standard husbandry best practices for the brumation of small lizards in a captive setting. Hence, when faced with the need to overwinter captive populations of two lacertid lizard species from a montane environment (*Iberolacerta monticola* and *Podarcis lusitanicus*), the need arose to establish a conservative protocol that would allow the animals to safely go through their seasonal activity cycle (and brumate) in a controlled laboratory environment. This protocol therefore addresses that gap as it aimed to simulate a simplification of the conditions thought to be experienced by these animals while brumating. Ultimately, through this protocol, these species were successfully overwintered in a laboratory setting without any casualties (during the brumation period) and with no significant effect on the body condition of the animals. Hence, this protocol hopes to provide a baseline framework, on which other studies may capitalise, build upon or adjust, for the safe brumation of lizards in a laboratory setting.

ATTACHMENTS

Lacertid Brumation Protocol.pdf

Protocol status: Working
We use this protocol and it's working

Created: Oct 27, 2023

Last Modified: Oct 27, 2023

PROTOCOL integer ID: 90000

Keywords: brumation, reptile husbandry, lacertid, lizard, reptile

Funders Acknowledgement:
Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia
Grant ID: SFRH/BD/147535/2019

IMAGE ATTRIBUTION

All images taken/produced by Frederico M. Barroso