

Western green lizard

Latin name : *Lacerta bilineata*

Size : 30 cm

**Lifespan : from 5 to 9 years,
up to 16 years**

Male green lizards can be distinguished from females by their slightly smaller size and by their much brighter green colour with shades of light blue under the chin. Green lizards are fully protected in France, and it is forbidden to kill or capture them.



If one of these predators grabs the lizard's tail, the lizard contracts its muscles, breaking its spine so that it can leave its tail behind. The tail continues to wag a little, creating a diversion to allow the lizard to escape. The tail regenerates completely - nerves, vessels, skeleton and skin - although there are noticeable differences from the original. It will be formed from a single cartilage tube with longer muscle fibres. It is thought that this new tail does not allow movements as fine and precise as the original.