



***Eremias papenfussi* sp. nov., a new lacertid lizard (Sauria: Lacertidae) from Tehran Province, Iran**

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Abstract

We describe a new species of *Eremias* lacertid from the Alborz Mountain range in northern Iran (Tehran Province). *Eremias papenfussi* n. sp. is part of the *Eremias* subgenus (or morphotype) by virtue of lacking lateral fringes on the fourth toe and color pattern. It can be further differentiated from previously described species assigned to this morphotype by the absence of distinctly keeled upper caudal scales, gular scales that do not extend to the second inframaxillary scales, color pattern, and scale counts. *Eremias papenfussi* is found on rocky mountain slopes of the Alborz where it is presumed to have a much broader distribution than demonstrated by the available specimens. Of the 15 species of *Eremias* known from Iran, *E. papenfussi* is the fifth species known to inhabit rocky mountain slopes along with *E. strauchi*, *E. lalezharica*, *E. montanus* and *E. novo*.

Key words: Reptilia, Alborz, Endemic

Introduction

The lacertid genus *Eremias* Fitzinger 1834 consists of 32 species endemic to Eurasian Palearctic deserts (Anderson, 1999; Uetz, 2011). Fifteen species of *Eremias* are known from Iran (Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.* 2008; Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.* 2010), five of which are restricted to Iran (Anderson, 1999; Uetz, 2011). We report and describe a sixth endemic species of *Eremias* from Iran. This distinctive new species is currently known from a few localities in the Alborz Mountains near the capital city Tehran (Fig. 1).

Institutional abbreviations: PHIM, Pars Herpetologists Institute Museum (Tehran, Iran); ZFMK, Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig (Bonn, Germany).

Description

***Eremias* Fitzinger 1834**

***Eremias papenfussi* Mozaffari, Ahmadzadeh, and Parham sp. nov.**

Figures 2 and 3.

Etymology. According to Arnold *et al.* (1978), “*Eremias* is a Greek noun meaning solitary devotee, and is related to *Eremia*, signifying an isolated place or desert.” (Arnold *et al.* 1978; Mozaffari and Parham, 2007) The epithet *papenfussi* is for Theodore Johnstone Papenfuss of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of Califor-