



## The status of the nomina *Trapelus savignyi* Audouin, 1827 and *Agama savignii* Duméril & Bibron, 1837 and the valid nomen of the Savigny's Agama (Sauria: Agamidae)

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### Abstract

Herein we clarify the status of the nomen *Trapelus savignyi* Audouin, 1827 and *Agama savignii* Duméril & Bibron, 1837 by the designation of a lectotype of the former and a neotype of the latter species.

**Key words:** Reptilia, Sauria, Agamidae, *Trapelus*, neotype, northern Africa, Egypt

### Introduction

The lizard family Agamidae Gray, 1827 is represented in Africa by five genera: *Acanthocercus* Fitzinger, 1843; *Agama* Daudin, 1802; *Pseudotrapelus* Fitzinger, 1843; *Trapelus* Cuvier, 1817 and *Uromastix* Merrem, 1820. Many species of this family in Africa were long classified as members of the genus *Agama* until Moody (1980) resurrected some previously proposed generic nomina for several species-groups.

The genus *Trapelus* consists of 15 species which are distributed from northern Africa across the Middle East to Asia. They are characterized by short, thick heads and in contrast to species of the genus *Agama*, by deeply sunken tympanums with few spiny scales in the ear opening. So far, five *Trapelus* species are known to occur in northern Africa: *T. mutabilis* (Merrem, 1820): northern Africa; *Trapelus pallidus* (Reuss, 1833): Egypt, Republic of Djibouti; *Trapelus schmitzi* Wagner & Böhme, 2007: Chad, Algeria, Niger; and *Trapelus tournevillei* (Lataste, 1880): Algeria and Tunisia [Distribution information are based on: Baha el Din 2006, Ineich 2001, Schleich et al. 1996, Wagner & Böhme 2007, Wagner et al. 2008]. The last of these species is Savigny's Agama, a well known and clearly diagnosed species. It is easy to distinguish from other valid *Trapelus* species in Africa by the combination of a well developed gular pouch and an unstriped belly in adult males. Baha El Din (2006) mentioned a relatively small distribution range from Israel across Palestine, Sinai und Negev to Egypt, where it only occurs east of the Nile River (Baha El Din 2006). Savigny's Agama is known today as *Trapelus savignii* (Duméril & Bibron, 1837). However, as we will discuss in this paper, there are several issues to be solved to determine the correct nomen applicable to this species. Indeed, the species is still regularly referred to as "*Trapelus savignyi*", even if the authorship is credited to Duméril & Bibron (e.g. Müller 2001; Attum *et al.* 2006; Filser & Prasse 2008; Shoo *et al.* 2008, linked to the nomen used in the Genbank database at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Genbank/index.html>).

### Status of the nomen *Trapelus savignyi* Audouin, 1827

The first issue to solve is the status of the nomen *Trapelus savignyi* published by Audouin (1827) ten years