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Annotated checklist and distribution of the lizards of Iran

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Table of contents

Abstract	4
Introduction	4
Aims of the study	6
Material and methods	6
Results	7
Checklist	7
Agamidae	7
<i>Calotes</i> Cuvier, 1816	7
<i>Laudakia</i> Gray, 1845	8
<i>Phrynocephalus</i> Kaup, 1825	9
<i>Trapelus</i> Cuvier, 1816	12
Anguidae	13
<i>Anguis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	13
<i>Pseudopus</i> Merrem, 1820	13
Eublepharidae	14
<i>Eublepharis</i> Gray, 1827	14
Gekkonidae	15
<i>Agamura</i> Blanford, 1874	15
<i>Bunopus</i> Blanford, 1874	15
<i>Crossobamon</i> Boettger, 1888	16
<i>Cyrtopodion</i> Fitzinger, 1843	16
<i>Hemidactylus</i> Oken, 1817	19
<i>Mediodactylus</i> Szczerbak & Golubev, 1977	20
<i>Microgecko</i> Nikolsky, 1907	23
<i>Pseudoceramodactylus</i> Haas, 1957	24
<i>Rhinogekko</i> de Witte, 1973	24
<i>Stenodactylus</i> Fitzinger, 1826	25
<i>Tenuidactylus</i> Szczerbak & Golubev, 1984	26
<i>Tropicolotes</i> Peters, 1880	27
Lacertidae	27
<i>Acanthodactylus</i> Fitzinger, 1834	27
<i>Apathya</i> Méhely, 1907	29
<i>Darevskia</i> Arribas, 1997	30
<i>Eremias</i> Fitzinger, 1834	32
<i>Iranolacerta</i> Arnold, Arribas & Carranza, 2007	37
<i>Lacerta</i> Linnaeus, 1758	38
<i>Mesalina</i> Gray, 1838	39
<i>Ophisops</i> Ménétriés, 1832	39
<i>Timon</i> Tschudi, 1836	40
Phyllodactylidae	40
<i>Asaccus</i> Dixon & Anderson, 1973	40
Scincidae	43
<i>Ablepharus</i> Fitzinger, 1823	43
<i>Chalcides</i> Laurenti, 1768	43
<i>Eumeces</i> Wiegmann, 1834	44
<i>Eurylepis</i> Blyth, 1854	45
<i>Ophiomorus</i> Duméril & Bibron, 1839	45
<i>Scincus</i> Laurenti, 1768	47
<i>Trachylepis</i> Fitzinger, 1843	47
Sphaerodactylidae	48
<i>Pristurus</i> Rüppell, 1835	48
<i>Teratoscincus</i> Strauch, 1863	49
Trogonophidae	49
<i>Diplometopon</i> Nikolski, 1907	49
Uromastycidae	50
<i>Uromastyx</i> Merrem, 1820	50
Varanidae	50
<i>Varanus</i> Merrem, 1820	50
Discussion	51
Acknowledgements	52
References	53
Appendix I	72

Abstract

We present a comprehensive summary of the distribution of the lizards of Iran accompanied by an annotated checklist. The updated maps of distribution of all 146 species of 41 genera of 11 families are based on all available bibliographic records, catalogues of museum collections and our own field observations. The final dataset used for the distribution maps contains 8525 georeferenced records and cover 41% of the country when plotted on a grid of $0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$ resolution. The dataset is publicly accessible through GBIF portal (<http://www.gbif.org/dataset/7db4f705-61ae-4c6e-9de2-06674e7d46b2>). Following the latest biogeographic division of the country, ~53% of the species (76 species) inhabit the Iranian Province, ~41% (60 species) the Western Asian mountain transition zone, ~9% (13 species) the Turanian Province, and ~18% (27 species) the Arabian Province. In addition, ~2% (3 species) reach Iran from the Indo-Malay biogeographic region and ~2% (3 species) are believed to have been introduced to Iran by humans. Endemic species (46) represent ~32% of the known species diversity. The most species-rich family of lizards in Iran is Lacertidae with 47 species, followed by Gekkonidae (41), Agamidae (18), Scincidae (15), Phyllodactylidae (10), Sphaerodactylidae (4), Eublepharidae and Uromastycidae (3), Anguidae and Varanidae (2), and Trogonophidae with one representative.

Key words: Reptilia, Squamata, Agamidae, Anguidae, Eublepharidae, Gekkonidae, Lacertidae, Phyllodactylidae, Scincidae, Sphaerodactylidae, Trogonophidae, Uromastycidae, Varanidae, biogeography, zoogeography, Middle East

Abstract in Farsi

در این مطالعه خلاصه ای جامع از پراکنش سوسماران ایران همراه با لیست کاملی از آنها ارائه شده است. نقشه های پراکنش تمام ۱۴۶ گونه متعلق به ۴۱ جنس و ۱۱ خانواده براساس آخرین منابع منتشر شده، مجموعه های موزه ای شماره گذاری شده و مشاهدات مستقیم خودمان، به روز شده است. داده های نهایی شده ای که برای نقشه های پراکنش استفاده شده است شامل ۸۵۲۵ نقطه است که وقتی کل کشور را به شبکه ۰,۲۵ در ۰,۲۵ درجه تقسیم می کنیم، ۴۱ درصد سطح آن را می پوشاند. این داده ها برای عموم از طریق لینک زیر در پورتال GBIF قابل دسترس است (<http://www.gbif.org/dataset/7db4f705-61ae-4c6e-9de2-06674e7d46b2>). براساس تقسیم بندی بیوجغرافیایی کشور ایران، تقریباً ۵۳ درصد گونه ها (۷۷ گونه) در محدوده ایران جای میگیرند و به دنبال آن حدود ۴۱ درصد (۶۰ گونه) در ناحیه تبدالی کوه های غرب آسیا، حدود ۹ درصد (۱۳ گونه) در ناحیه تورانی، و حدود ۱۸ درصد (۲۷ گونه) در ناحیه عربی حضور دارند. علاوه بر اینها، ۲ درصد (۳ گونه) آنها از ناحیه بیوجغرافیایی جنوب شرق آسیا (هند و مالزی) خود را به ایران رسانده اند و معتقدند که حدود ۲ درصد (۳ گونه) توسط انسان پراکنده شده اند. ۴۶ گونه بومزاد موجود در ایران، ۳۲ درصد کل تنوع گونه ای شناخته شده را شامل می شود. غنی ترین خانواده سوسماران ایران از لحاظ تعداد گونه مربوط به خانواده لاسرتیده با ۴۷ گونه و به دنبال آن جکونیده با ۴۱ گونه، آگامیده با ۱۸ گونه، سینسیده با ۱۵ گونه، فیلوداکتیلیده با ۱۰ گونه، اسفارداکتیلیده با ۴ گونه، یولفاریده و یوروماستیسیده هرکدام با ۳ گونه، آنگونیده و وارانیده هر کدام با ۲ گونه و ترگونوفیده با یک گونه حضور دارند.

Introduction

Systematic research on the lizards of the Islamic Republic of Iran (henceforth Iran) has a long tradition reaching back to the early 19th century when Olivier (1804) described *Agama ruderata* (= *Trapelus ruderatus*) based on material collected in Persia (Iran). A literal burst of species descriptions came by the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century with the catalogues and accounts on the Persian herpetofauna by Blanford (1874a, 1874b, 1876, 1881), Boulenger (1885, 1887, 1918, 1920, 1921), Werner (1895, 1904, 1917, 1929, 1936), and Nikolsky (1896, 1903, 1907, 1915) when the number of lizard species known to Iran exceeded 90 (Fig. 1). During the 20th century the explorations continued and resulted in the studies by Karl P. Schmidt (1939, 1952, 1955) and, most of all, Steven C. Anderson, whose crucial contributions to the Iranian reptile research (Anderson 1963, 1968, 1973, 1974, 1979, 1993; Anderson & Leviton 1966a, 1966b; Minton *et al.* 1970; Leviton & Anderson 1972; Dixon & Anderson 1973; Leviton *et al.* 1992) reached their climax in the monumental book *The Lizard of Iran* (Anderson 1999). Maps of the distribution of the lizards of Iran have been published by several authors, the most notable ones by Tuck (1971a), Schleich (1977), and Anderson (1999).

Within the last two decades, the biggest influence on the taxonomic knowledge of the Iranian lizards has been made by numerous, mostly Iranian herpetologists, most notably by F. Ahmadzadeh, N. Rastegar-Pouyani, and F. Torki, who in total described 23 currently valid lizard species (Rastegar-Pouyani 1996, 1998a; Rastegar-Pouyani & Nilson 1998; Rastegar-Pouyani & Rastegar-Pouyani 2001, 2005; Nilson *et al.* 2003; Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.* 2006;

who directly helped in the field or kindly shared their data from field observations, namely M. Arab, B. Blecha, J. Červenka, A. Chudárková, J. Davoodian, J. Flegr, V. Gvoždík, Z. Hodková, Š. Hrdá, I. Hrdý, P. Hulva, P. Kabátek, A. Keyvanlou, A. Khani, A. Khosravani, E. Ledecký, M. Kaftan, S. Komárek, A. Krása, P. Kuncová, E. Michalčíková, H. Oraei, J. Pyrih, M. Ranaei, A. Reiter, K. Rexová, A. Roubíčková, M. Sabeti, J. Sádlo, J. Sádlová, H. Sajed, L. Schwarzová, R. Šumbera, V. Tothová, P. Vycpálek, M. Yousefi, M. Zarrintab. Z. Varadinová kindly helped to improve the earlier version of the manuscript. Special thanks are due to P. Daneš for his help with uploading the data to GBIF. We are very grateful to S. Anderson, M. Rajabizadeh and an anonymous referee for reviewing the manuscript and providing helpful comments. The work was financially supported by Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic (DKRVO 2014/14, National Museum, 00023272), JŠ received support from the SVV 260 087/2014 project of the Charles University in Prague.

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