

HERPETOFAUNA IN THE PROVINCE OF BALOCHISTAN, PAKISTAN.

Mohammad Ali^a, Habibullah^{b*}, Mohammad Anwar^c, Mohammad Nawaz,

Herpetology laboratory, Zoology Department, University of Balochistan, Quetta.

(a). Government Science College, Quetta.

(b). Government Degree College Mastung.

(c). Chemistry Department, University of Balochistan, Quetta.

*habibullahachakzai@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT: A general survey of herpetofauna was conducted through August 2006-july 2007, covering five selected district, i.e. Quetta, Sibi, Mastung, Mekran and Noshkii (Chagii), One species of Crocodile, two of Chelonia, 37 species of lizard and 35 specie of snakes belong to 3 orders 14 families of class Reptilia were recorded. Among lizards endemism was also observed.

Author Keyword: Herpetofauna, Balochistan, Pakistan

INTRODUCTION:

Balochistan is the largest province, mainly comprises mountains, vast desert, stony fields with climates extreme cool/ hot, scanty and uncertain rainfall in winter and rarely in summer months respectively.

Faunistically Balochistan is very important, beside some important Birds and Mammals; a large number of reptiles are also present in the area. More to the point inspire of extreme importance of reptiles in the food chain and ecological balance of nature, this group has always been neglected by the naturalists in Pakistan especially Balochistan.

Extensive published literatures are available on amphibians and reptiles of India and Pakistan, [1] and [2] but with respect to Pakistan, Balochhistan sporadic work is on record.[3], [4], [5], [6], [7] and [8], all these were due to incomplete topography, vastness of the province and inaccessibility to most of this area. Few districts were selected in order to explore this area completely and systematically with respect to herpetofauna.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Reptiles collected during this survey comprised lizard, snakes, tortoises and crocodiles.

Conventional methods were used to collect these reptiles from different areas through the years 2006, 2007. Mode of collocation such as catching, trapping, noosing and manual methods were used. Non-conventional methods such as shooting by air-gun and shot-gun, using poisonous bait in their burrows were also applied; Nets were also used for small lizards and snakes. While Afghan tortoises were collected from the field by hand. Local experience persons were also interviewed about the status and distribution of the species and differentiation between poisonous, non-poisonous species and about the skin trading of snakes in this area. Other factors affecting their status and population were also discussed with the local people and also depending upon personal observations.

Comprehensive information regarding the collected reptiles was obtained based on appropriate questionnaire from the concerned localities. Comprehensive physical study was

under taken and all morphological characters of species

compared to known species were done.

All species were preserved for future studies and were deposited in the herpetology laboratory, Zoology Department; University of

Balochistan Quetta. Specific identification was done with the help of available literatures. New records of species were left for

expert's opinions and latest literatures. n.a.r. (represent new area record).

DISCUSSION:

The present herpetofauna was based on an 890 herpetile specimens. The herpetile were identified and checked their area record from past literature on the herpefauna of Balochistan province, [1], [2], [9], [10], and [11].

Six species were recorded for the first time from Balochistan i.e., one Chelonian, *Lissemys punctata punctata*, one lizard *varanus griseus konieczyni* and four snakes, *Typloph porrectus*, *Eryx conicus*, *lytorhynchus paradoxus*, *ungarus caeruleus sindanus*.

Area wise 15 species were recorded from this area for the first time, a good contribution to the already described fauna, by [1,2]. Most of these species were found endangered in this area due to very drought season from 2000-2006 and illegal trapping of snakes and tortoise species, a few were found common. In spite of all these factor this survey showed richness of herpetofauna, showing some of endangered species and endemism. An urgent need and awareness is required to create awareness about importance and conservation of reptiles and protection of ecosystem in this are.

RESULTS AND OBSERVATION:

Class: Reptilia

Order: Crocrodilia

S. No.	Family	Scientific Name.	Place of collection	Status
1	Crocrodilidae	<i>Crocrodilus palustris</i>	Sibi (in Mari tribal area)	endangered

Order; Chelonia

Family	Scientific Name.	Place of collection	Status
Testudinidae	<i>Testudo horsfieldii</i>	Quetta, Mastung, Noshki, Pishin,	Common
Trionychidae	<i>Lissemys punctata punctata</i>	Dera. Murad Jamali.	E

Sub Order Sauria (Lizards)

Order; Squamata

S. No.	Family	Scientific Name.	Place of collection	Status
4.	Geckkonidae.	<i>Eublepharis macularius</i>	Quetta, Harnai	E
5.		<i>Teratoscincus scinus</i>	kharan,kalat,chagai	C
6.		<i>Gymnodactylus watsoni</i>	Turbat(n.a.r)	E
7.		<i>G.scaber</i>	Quetta,Bella	E
8.		<i>G.k.kachhensis</i>	Kalat, pishin (n.a.r)	E
9.		<i>Agamura persica</i>	Quetta, Zhob (n.a.r)	E
10.		<i>Hemidactylus persicus</i>	Bella,khuzdar	C
11.		<i>H.turcicus turcicus</i>	Turbat	C
12.		<i>H.turcicus triedes</i>	Mekran(n.a.r)	E
13.		<i>H. brooki</i>	Sibi(n.a.r)	C
14.		<i>H.flaviviridis</i>	Khuzdar, Sibi	C
15.	<u>Agamidae</u>	<i>Calotes.versicolor</i>	Dera bughti,Mekran,Sibi, Bela	C
16.		<i>Uromastix hardwickii</i>	Dera bughti,Sibi, D.M.J	C
17.		<i>Agama nupta fusca</i>	Quetta,Hanna	E
18.		<i>A.nupta nupta</i>	Pishin, Sibi (n.a.r)	C
19.		<i>A.rubricularis</i>	Bolan,Sibi,Bag	C
20.		<i>A. caucasia caucasia</i>	Zairat.Kalat, Pishin,Quetta	C
21.		<i>A.rudeta boluchiana</i>	Quetta,Sibi, Chagai (n.a.r)	C
22.		<i>A.megalonyx</i>	Quetta,Kalat.(Pishin)	E
23.		<i>A.m.melanura</i>	Sibi,Harnai	E
24.		<i>Phrynocephalus euptilopus</i>	Turbat	E
25.		<i>P.maculatus</i>	Pishin (n.a.r)	E
26.	Scincidae	<i>Mabuya macularia</i>	Khuzdar,Bella	C
27.		<i>Eumeces schneiderri</i>	Quetta costal area of Mekran	E
28.		<i>E.s.zurudnyi</i>	Bella	E
29.		<i>E.taeniolatus</i>	Quetta,Zhob,Sibi, Mekran,	C
30.		<i>Ablepharus pannonicus</i>	Chagai,kharan,Quetta	E
31.		<i>A.grayanus</i>	Chagai, Quetta	C
32.		<i>Ophiomorus tridactylus</i>	Chagai, Quetta,pishin,	C
33.		<i>O.blanfordii</i>	Chagai,kharan,Mekran	E
34.	Lacertidae	<i>Acanthodactylus cantoris</i>	Chagai,Quetta	E
35.		<i>Eremias velox persica</i>	Chagai,kharan,Quetta Kalat	C
36.		<i>E.scripta</i>	Chagai	E
37.		<i>Ophiosops jerdonii</i>	Khuzdar,Bella,Kalat, Sibi	C
38.	Varanidae	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>	D.M.J Sibi, Bolan	C
39.		<i>V.griseus caspius</i>	Pashin	E
40.		<i>V.g. koneieczyni</i>	Pashin (n.a.r)	E

Sub order serpents (snakes)

S.No.	Family	Scientific Name.	Place of collection	Status
41.	Typhlopidea	<i>Typhlops braminus</i>	Quetta , Sibi	E
42.		<i>T. porrectus</i>	Quetta, Sibi (n.a.r)	E

43.	Letotyphlopidea	<i>Letolyphlop macrohyncus</i>	Sibi, Usta M. (n.a.r).	E
44.		<i>L. blanfordi</i>	Quetta, Mekran (n.a.r).	E
45.	Boidae	<i>Eryx johnii johnii</i>	Khuzdar, Mekran	C
46.		<i>E. conicus</i>	Kohlu	C
47.		<i>E. tetaricus</i>	Kharan, Chagai (n.a.r)	C
48.	Colubridea	<i>Boiga trigonata trigonata</i>	Turbat, Khuzdar	C
49.		<i>B.t. melanocephalus</i>	Panjgoor	E
50.		<i>Coluber k. karelini</i>	Quetta, Pashin, Chagai	E
51.		<i>C. rhodorachis</i>	Mekran, Khuzdar, Quetta	C
52.		<i>C. ventromaculatus</i>	Khuzdar, Quetta, Bela	C
53.		<i>C. ravergieri</i>	Quetta, Zhob, Lorali, Kalat, Pashin	C
54.		<i>Spalerosophis diadema</i>	Pishin, Quetta, Lorali,	C
55.		<i>S. atriceps</i>	Sibi, Ziarat, (Bolan n.a.r)	C
56.		<i>S. arenarius</i>	Khudar, Bela	E
57.		<i>Ptyas mucosus</i>	Quetta, Sibi, Lorali, Pishin, Ziarat.	C
58.		<i>Psammophis schokari</i>	Turbat, Chaghi, (Quetta, Pishin (n.a.r)	C
59.		<i>P. leithii</i>	Bela, Kalat	C
60.		<i>P. lineolatus</i>	Quetta, Sibi	E
61.		<i>Eirenis persica</i>	(Kharan, Chaghi n.a.r)	E
62.		<i>Lytorhynchus maynardi</i>	Chaghi	E
63.		<i>Lytorhynchus ridgewayi</i>	Sibi	E
64.		<i>Lytorhynchus paradoxus</i>	Zhob	E
65.		<i>Lycodon striatus striatus</i> <i>Lycodon striatus bicolor</i>	Quetta	C
66.		<i>Lycodon aulicus</i>	Quetta	E
67.		<i>Oligodon taeniolatus</i>	Bela	C
68.		<i>Xenochrophis piscator piscator</i>	Dera Murad Jamali	C
69.	Elapidae	<i>Bungarus caeruleus caeruleus</i>	Dera Murad Jamali	C
70.		<i>Bungarus caeruleus sindanus</i>	Dukki (n.a.r)	E
71.		<i>Naja naja</i>	Sibi, Bolan, Dera murad Jamali	C
72.		<i>Naja naja oxiana</i>	Quetta, Pashin, Sibi, Ziarat	C
73.	Viperidae	<i>Echis crinatus</i>	Pashin, Quetta, Sibi, Ziarat, Kalat, Khuzdar	C
74.		<i>Vipera labetina</i>	Quetta, Ziarat, Pashin	E
75.		<i>Eristocophis macmahonii</i>	Noshki	E

n a r (New area record), C (Common), E (Endangered).



Fig 1 *Eristocophis macmahoni*.



Fig 3 *Eublepharus* Sp



Fig 2 *Phrynocephalus*. Sp

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