



Fig. 236: *Omanosaura cyanura*, eastern Hajar, Oman.

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Fig. 237: *Omanosaura cyanura*, Jebel Akhdar, Oman.

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Omanosaura cyanura (ARNOLD, 1972)
Blue-tailed Oman Lizard

Synonymy

Lacerta cyanura ARNOLD, 1972

Omanosaura cyanura – LUTZ, BISCHOFF & MAYER, 1986

Range. Endemic to the Hajar Mountains of northern Oman and the UAE.

Size. Up to at least 60 mm SVL. Tail length about 2.5 times SVL.

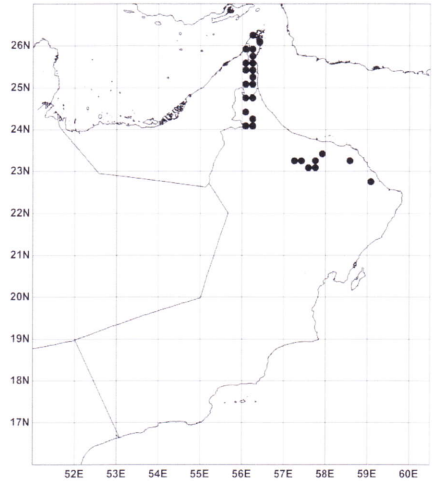
Identification. A small and delicately-built lacertid with a striking colour pattern and somewhat flattened head and body. The tail is very long. The dorsal colour of adults may be entirely electric blue, or this blue colour may be restricted to the tail, with the back being uniformly brown. The underside and flanks may also be blue. Juveniles have a strong pattern of six black and cream longitudinal stripes, though they too have a blue tail. The upper surfaces of the legs in juveniles are dark spotted with white, with a dark bar running along the rear of the upper hind leg.

There are six ventral scales in longest row across the belly, 44–51 smooth dorsal scales in the longest row at mid-body. Scales along centre of back not enlarged. Two postnasal scales, one above the other. Scales beneath toes keeled.

Biology. An active, diurnal lizard of mountain wadis and ravines. This species is much smaller and less frequently seen compared with Jayakar's Oman lizard (*Omanosaura jayakari*). They are active hunters of insects and other arthropods during the day.

Very little is known of its life in the wild, though some observations are available from captive specimens. Females usually lay clutches of three relatively large eggs measuring about 9 by 4 mm (which reach 15 by 9 mm just prior to hatching). Clutches may be laid at three week intervals. Hatchlings measured 25 mm SVL with tail lengths of 55 mm.

Habitat. From sea level to 2120 m. Rocks and stony mountainside and gorges with sufficient vegetation. They are most frequently seen in gorges and steep wadis which may hold water pools or damp soils.



Distribution. The Hajar Mountains from the Ru'us al Jibal in Musandam, through the UAE Hajar section, Jebel Akhdar to the Hajar ash Sharqi. Two records from Wadi Serin and Jebel Bani Jabir in the Hajar ash Sharqi suggests this species may occur more widely in these eastern mountains, at least where there is sufficient vegetation. The gaps on the map are likely to represent recording gaps rather than absence. Not recorded from Jebel Hafit.

Pertinent references. ARNOLD 1972, ARNOLD & GALLAGHER 1977, GRUBER *et al.* 1993, HARRIS *et al.* 1998, LEPTIEN 1995, LEPTIEN & BÖHME 1994, SINDACO *et al.* 2010.



Fig. 240: *Omanosaura jayakari*, Environment and Protected Areas Authority, Arabia's Wildlife Centre, Sharjah, UAE, captive specimen.

J. Els