

Annotated checklist of the endemic Tetrapoda species of Iran



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ABSTRACT

During past years different studies have attempted to describe the tetrapod fauna of Iran, most of which have focused on the herpetofauna. However there is no coherent study of the endemic species of Tetrapoda in Iran. In this study, we provide a list of endemic species of Tetrapoda in Iran, mention their habitat, distribution, their conservation status (IUCN) and important biological note. Eighty endemic species of Tetrapoda occur in Iran, of which 82.50% are reptiles. Thirty-eight species (47.50% of total endemic species of Tetrapoda) have no submitted data to IUCN; of which 35 species are reptiles. Additional studies are needed to provide data about the conservation status of tetrapod fauna of Iran, especially the endemic fauna.

KEY WORDS

Fauna of Iran,
endemism,
Tetrapoda,
IUCN,
checklist.

RÉSUMÉ

Liste annotée des espèces endémiques d'Iran.

Ces dernières années, différentes études ont essayé de décrire la faune iranienne de Tétrapodes, la plupart en se focalisant sur l'herpétofaune. Il n'existe pas cependant d'étude cohérente sur les espèces endémiques de Tétrapodes d'Iran. Nous proposons ici une liste des espèces endémiques de Tétrapodes iraniens, et mentionnons leur habitat, leur distribution, leur statut pour la conservation (IUCN) et des remarques biologiques importantes. Quarante-et-une espèces de Tétrapodes sont endémiques d'Iran, dont 82.50 % de reptiles. Trente-huit espèces (47.50 % des espèces endémiques totales), dont 35 espèces de reptiles, ne sont pas documentées à l'IUCN. Il est nécessaire d'étudier plus avant le statut des Tétrapodes iraniens pour la conservation, en particulier pour les espèces endémiques.

MOTS CLÉS

Faune d'Iran,
endémisme,
Tetrapoda,
IUCN,
catalogue.

INTRODUCTION

Endemicity is one of the crucial issues in conservation biology, an idea first employed by de Candolle 200 years ago. "Endemicity" may result from: 1) the organism originated in a special place and never dispersed elsewhere; or 2) the organism survived in a portion of its former broader range. Historical events and ecological processes influence endemicity (Brown & Lomolino 1998) and furthermore degree of endemicity differs among taxa.

Iran is a prominent area from the zoogeographical point of view; located on the border of the Palearctic, Ethiopian and Oriental zoogeographic regions, it ranks 20th among global hotspot (Coad & Vilenkin 2004; Hosseinzadeh *et al.* 2014). Hosseinzadeh *et al.* (2014) reported the western and southwestern areas of Iran as hotspots for Iranian endemic reptiles, designated as the Irano-Anatolian biodiversity hotspot. The annual mean temperature was identified as the factor that has the most effect on the reptile species richness (Hosseinzadeh *et al.* 2014).

Numerous studies have been conducted related to Iran endemicity, most of which focused on the herpetofauna. In 2011, Gholamifard published a study of the endemic reptiles of Iran, identifying 36 endemic species. Smid *et al.* (2014) published a checklist of the Iranian lizards, listing 46 endemic species. However, Hosseinzadeh *et al.* (2014) recognized 50 endemic species of terrestrial reptiles in Iran. In the most recent study, six endemic amphibians and 55 endemic reptiles were listed for Iran (Safaei-Mahroo *et al.* 2015).

On the other hand, Karami *et al.* (2016) published the checklist of the mammals of Iran and listed 202 species (including both extirpated and introduced species). Rodents were the most diverse order (71 species) followed by Chiroptera (49 species) and Carnivora (31 species) (Karami *et al.* 2016).

In this study, we provide a list of the endemic Tetrapoda of Iran in addition to their distribution, conservation status (IUCN), common name and habitat. Species with known ranges restricted to the political borders of Iran are considered endemic. This is the first coherent report of the endemic species of Tetrapoda in Iran.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This revised checklist has been prepared based on the previous works done on the tetrapod fauna of Iran (see the selected bibliography) and also by examination of material from various zoological collections as well as carrying out extensive field expeditions during recent years in the Iranian Plateau. An endemic is here defined as any species found solely in Iran. Some species are known with rare specimens only from specific locations within the political boundaries of Iranian provinces or have a restricted distribution within the Iranian Plateau. Others are recorded from Iranian provinces adjacent to neighboring countries and may eventually be found there, but as yet are known only inside the Iranian borders. The classification follows Wilson & Reeder (2005) and Wilson *et al.* (2017) for mammals, Frost (2018) for amphibians, and Smid *et al.* (2014), Wallach *et al.* (2014) and Uetz (2018) for reptiles.

ABBREVIATIONS

CAS	California Academy of Science, San Francisco;
FMNH	Field Museum Natural History, Chicago;
GNHM (GNM)	Gothenburg Natural History Museum, Gothenburg;
ICSTZ	Institute of Environmental Science, International Centre for Science, High Technology and Environmental Science, Kerman;
ICSTZM	International Center for Science, High Technology and Environmental Sciences Zoological Museum, Kerman;
MMTT	Tehran Natural History Museum, Tehran;
MNHN	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris;
MSNTO	Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali di Torino;
MTD	Senckenberg Naturhistorische Sammlungen, Museum für Tierkunde, Dresden;
MZUT	Museo Zoologico, Università di Torino, Torino;
NHMW (NMW)	Museum of Natural History, Vienna;
NMP (NMP6V)	National Museum in Prague;
RUZM	Razi University Zoological Museum, Kermanshah;
SMF	Mertens catalogue, Natur-Museum und Forschungs- Institut Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main;
SUHC	Sabzevar University Herpetological Collection, Sabzevar;
TUZM	Tehran University Zoological Museum, Tehran;
USNM	United State National Museum, Washington;

YUZM	Yasouj University Zoological Museum;
ZFMK	Zoologisches Forschung Institut und Museum Alexander Koenig Bonn;
ZISP (ZIL, ZIS)	Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg;
ZMB	Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin;
ZMFUM	Zoology Museum of Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad;
ZMGU	Zoological Museum Gorgan University, Gorgan;
ZMMU	Zoological Museum of M. V. Lomonosov Mos- cow State University, Moscow;
ZMUC (SNM)	Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen;
ZMSBUK	Zoological Museum Shahid Bahonar University, Kerman;
ZSI	Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

RESULTS

Class AMPHIBIA Gray, 1825
Order ANURA Fischer von Waldheim, 1813
Family BUFONIDAE Gray, 1825
Genus *Bufo* Rafinesque, 1815

Bufo luristanicus (Schmidt, 1952)
(Fig. 1)

Bufo luristanicus Schmidt, 1952: 2.

COMMON NAME. — Luristanican Toad.

HOLOTYPE. — ZMUC Field No. 102.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Shah Bazan, Lorestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Mostly in the Western foothills of Khuzestan, Lorestan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad and Fars Provinces (Schmidt 1952; Stöck *et al.* 2001; Safaei-Mahroo *et al.* 2015).

HABITAT. — The habitat is apparently similar to *Bufo surdus* Boulenger, 1891; supposedly breeds in still or slow moving waters. Present in agricultural areas and also in the vicinity of human settlements (Balouch & Kami 1995).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Schmidt (1952); Balouch & Kami (1995); Stöck *et al.* (2001); Safaei-Mahroo *et al.* (2015).

Family RANIDAE Rafinesque, 1814
Genus *Rana* Linnaeus, 1758

Rana pseudodalmatina Eiselt & Schmidtler, 1971
(Fig. 2)

Rana pseudodalmatina Eiselt & Schmidtler, 1971: 384.

COMMON NAME. — Hircanian Wood Frog.

HOLOTYPE. — NHMW 19790.4.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Weyser (South West of Chalus), Mazandaran Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Mazandaran, Golestan and Gilan Provinces (Najibzadeh *et al.* 2017).



FIG. 1. — *Bufo luristanicus* (Schmidt, 1952). Photo by M. Najibzadeh.

HABITAT. — It lives in both densely wooded and open woodland areas (Kami & Vakilpoure 1996; Veith *et al.* 2003).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Eiselt & Schmidtler (1971); Kami & Vakilpoure (1996); Veith *et al.* (2003); Najibzadeh *et al.* (2017).

Order CAUDATA Scopoli, 1777
Family HYNOBIIIDAE Cope, 1859
Subfamily HYNOBIIINAE Cope, 1859
Genus *Iranodon* Dubios & Raffaëlli, 2012

Iranodon gorganensis
(Clergue-Gazeau & Thorn, 1979)

Batrachuperus gorganensis Clergue-Gazeau & Thorn, 1979: 455.

COMMON NAME. — Gorgan Mountain Salamander.

HOLOTYPE. — MNHN 1978.1982.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Shirabad Cave, between Gorgan and Ali-Abad, Alborz Mountain Range, Golestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Endemic to the Shirabad Cave and the stream flowing from it, Golestan Province.

HABITAT. — Adults are found in a pool in the cave and the larvae are known from the outside of the cave in the stream flowing from it.

IUCN. — Critically endangered.

REFERENCES. — Clergue-Gazeau & Thorn (1979); Baloutch & Kami (1995).

REMARKS

See the Remarks of *Iranodon persicus* (Eiselt & Steiner, 1970).

Iranodon persicus (Eiselt & Steiner, 1970)

Batrachuperus persicus Eiselt & Steiner, 1970: 78.

COMMON NAME. — Persian Mountain Salamander.

HOLOTYPE. — NHMW 19435: 4.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Talesh Mountains, Gilan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Known from the Talesh and Alborz Mountains of Iran, South East of Chalus, in Mazandaran Province and Delmadedh village, South East of Khalkhal, in Ardabil Province (Kami 2004; Ebrahimi *et al.* 2004). Ahmadzadeh *et al.* (2011a) collected a single specimen in Dasht-e-Daman Yeylagi, in Rezvan Shahr city of Gilan Province.

HABITAT. — Found in mountain streams (Ahmadzadeh & Kami 2009; Ahmadzadeh *et al.* 2011a).

IUCN. — Near threatened.

REFERENCES. — Eiselt & Steiner (1970); Ebrahimi *et al.* (2004); Kami (2004); Zhang *et al.* (2006); Ahmadzadeh & Kami (2009); Ahmadzadeh *et al.* (2011a).

REMARKS

Described as *Batrachuperus persicus* the species was transferred to *Paradactylon* according to molecular study (Zhang *et al.* 2006).

Family SALAMANDRIDAE Goldfuss, 1820
Subfamily PLEURODELINAE Tschudi, 1838
Genus *Neurergus* Cope, 1862

Neurergus kaiseri Schmidt, 1952
(Fig. 3)

Neurergus crocatus kaiseri Schmidt, 1952: 1.

COMMON NAME. — Kaiser's Mountain Newt.

HOLOTYPE. — ZMUC 03184.

TYPE LOCALITY. — 11 km North of Shah Bazan, Lorestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Lorestan and Khuzestan Provinces in following streams: Shahbazan, Talezang, Shahzadeh Ahmad, Hajibarikab, and from the type locality in Tove (Sharifi *et al.* 2008, 2013).

HABITAT. — Outside the breeding season, the species leaves the water. Vegetation cover of its habitat ranges from thin shrubland on steep rock outcrops to dense woodlands with diverse tree species (Sharifi *et al.* 2008, 2013).

IUCN. — Critically endangered.

REFERENCES. — Schmidt (1952); Sharifi *et al.* (2008, 2013).

Class REPTILIA Laurenti, 1768
Order SQUAMATA Oppel, 1811
SubOrder SAURIA Mccarthy, 1822
Family AGAMIDAE Spix, 1825
Genus *Phrynocephalus* Kaup, 1825

Phrynocephalus abvazicus Melnikov, Melnikova, Nazarov,
Rajabizadeh, Al-Johany, Amr & Ananjeva, 2014

Phrynocephalus abvazicus Melnikov, Melnikova, Nazarov, Rajabizadeh, Al-Johany, Amr & Ananjeva, 2014: 155.

COMMON NAME. — Khuzestan Toad-headed Agama (designated here).

HOLOTYPE. — ZISP 27131.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Known only from the type locality.

HABITAT. — Nothing is mentioned in the original description.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Melnikov *et al.* (2014).

REMARKS

According to Melnikov *et al.* (2014) this species is different from the other species of *Phrynocephalus arabicus* Anderson, 1894 complex both morphologically and genetically.

Phrynocephalus ananjevae

Melnikov, Melnikova, Nazarov & Rajabizadeh, 2013

Phrynocephalus ananjevae Melnikov, Melnikova, Nazarov & Rajabizadeh, 2013: 38.

COMMON NAME. — Zagros Toad-headed Agama (designated here).

HOLOTYPE. — ZISP 10256.1.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Qahferokh, vicinity of Farokhshahr (approximately 32°16'N, 50°58'E), Chahar Mahal and Bakhtiari Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Type locality and Abadeh in Fars Province.

HABITAT. — Nothing is mentioned in the original description.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCES. — Melnikov *et al.* (2013).

Phrynocephalus lutensis Kamali & Anderson, 2015

Phrynocephalus lutensis Kamali & Anderson, 2015: 250.

COMMON NAME. — Lut Desert Toad Headed Agama.

HOLOTYPE. — ZISP 28014.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Dasht-e Lut (Lut Desert), Kerman Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Known from the type locality.



FIG. 2. — *Rana pseudodalmatina* Eiselt & Schmidtler, 1971. Photo by M. Najibzadeh.

HABITAT. — Living in wind-blown sand dunes.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Kamali & Anderson (2015).

Family GEKKONIDAE Gray, 1825

Genus *Bunopus* Blanford, 1874

Bunopus crassicauda Nikolsky, 1907

Bunopus crassicauda Nikolsky, 1907: 261.

COMMON NAME. — Thickhead Rock Gecko.

LECTOTYPE — ZIL 10233.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Qom, Maljat-Abad and Khara-Magommed-Abad, Esfahan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Alborz, Qom, Esfahan, Semnan, Yazd, Fars, Kerman, Khorasan Razavi Provinces (Kamali & Mozaffari 2013; Smid *et al.* 2014).

HABITAT. — Living on alluvial plains and hills with scattered vegetation, mostly bushlands or sparse shrublands (Anderson 1999).

IUCN. — Data deficient.

REFERENCES. — Nikolsky (1907); Anderson (1999); Kamali & Mozaffari (2013); Smid *et al.* (2014).

Genus *Cyrtopodion* Fitzinger, 1843

Cyrtopodion brevipes (Blanford, 1874)

Gymnodactylus brevipes Blanford, 1874a: 453.

COMMON NAME. — Blanford's Short-toed Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — ZSI 3465.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Aptan near Bampur, Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — According to Anderson (1999) it is known doubtlessly from the type locality. Based on Smid *et al.* (2014) with

certain record from Hormozgan and from Sistan and Baluchestan Provinces and with a doubtful record from Bushehr.

HABITAT. — Living in a sandy plain with sparse vegetation (Anderson 1999).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Blanford (1874a); Anderson (1999); Smid *et al.* (2014).

Cyrtopodion gastropholis (Werner, 1917)

Gymnodactylus gastropholis Werner, 1917: 194.

COMMON NAME. — Fars Spider Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — ZFMK 27095.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Fars Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Anderson (1999) stated that it is known only from the holotype and five paratypes from the coastal plain of the Persian Gulf in Fars Province. According to Smid *et al.* (2014) it is distributed in Bushehr, Hormozgan, Fars, and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad Provinces.

HABITAT. — Anderson (1999) collected a single specimen in a mud-brick building that was constructed as a shelter over a well which was located at the margin of the coastal plain.

IUCN. — Data deficient.

REFERENCES. — Werner (1917); Anderson (1999); Ahmadzadeh *et al.* (2011b); Smid *et al.* (2014).

REMARKS

According to Ahmadzadeh *et al.* (2011b) a close relationship is suggested between this species and *C. kiabii* Ahmadzadeh, Flecks, Torki & Böhme, 2011.

Cyrtopodion golubevi

Nazarov, Ananjeva & Radjabizadeh, 2009

Cyrtopodion golubevi Nazarov, Ananjeva & Radjabizadeh, 2009: 312.

COMMON NAME. — Bazman Bent-toad Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — ZMMU R-12624.

TYPE LOCALITY. — 100 km North West of Iranshahr, near Bazman, 27°52'N, 60°06'E, Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — According to Nazarov *et al.* (2009) the distribution range of this species apparently is in Southern Iran, and it could occur in bordering regions of Pakistan as well. But until now this species has been found only in the type and paratype localities (Nazarov *et al.* 2009).

HABITAT. — According to Smid *et al.* (2014): “The type locality is a humid canyon with dense vegetation in the otherwise dry clayis foothills with a poor shrubby cover.”

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCES. — Nazarov *et al.* (2009); Smid *et al.* (2014).

Cyrtopodion hormozganum

Nazarov, Bondarenko & Radjabizadeh, 2012

Cyrtopodion hormozganum Nazarov, Bondarenko & Radjabizadeh, 2012: 294.

COMMON NAME. — Hormozgan Bent-toad Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — ICSTZ M6H1290.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Hormozgan Province, 27 km North West of Minab, 27°24'N, 56°57'E.

DISTRIBUTION. — Only known from the type locality.

HABITAT. — Found on a low rocky mountains dissected by dry riverbeds and almost without vegetation.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Nazarov *et al.* (2012).

Cyrtopodion kiabii

Ahmadzadeh, Flecks, Torki & Böhme, 2011

Cyrtopodion kiabii Ahmadzadeh, Flecks, Torki & Böhme, 2011: 23.

COMMON NAME. — Nayband Bent-toad Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — ZFMK 91834.

TYPE LOCALITY. — 4.5 km South West of Nayband village at a distance of approximately 300 m to coast of the Persian Gulf, 27°21'9.5"N, 52°37'56.5"E, 108 m above sea level, Bushehr Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Only known from the type locality.

HABITAT. — The samples were found in two abandoned buildings, located in a cliffy area near the Persian Gulf coast.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Ahmadzadeh *et al.* (2011b).

REMARKS

Ahmadzadeh *et al.* (2011b) suggested a close relationship between *C. kiabii* and *C. gastropholis*.

Cyrtopodion kirmanense (Nikolsky, 1900)

Gymnodactylus kirmanensis Nikolsky, 1900: 381.

COMMON NAME. — Kerman Bent-toed Gecko.

LECTOTYPE — ZIL 9330.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Kuh-e Taftan, Sargad, East of Kerman, Iran.

DISTRIBUTION. — Sistan and Baluchestan and with uncertain records from Kerman and Fars Provinces (Smid *et al.* 2014).

HABITAT. — According to Szczerbak & Golubev (1996): “sheer rocky cliffs in the mountains, river banks and dry channels; shady terraces, crack, niches; occasionally, on loose fragments of rock boulders. It is most frequently found on granites and, less often, on conglomerates and other rocks.”



FIG. 3. — *Neurergus kaiseri* Schmidt, 1952. Photo by M. Najibzadeh.

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Nikolsky (1900); Szczerbak & Golubev (1996); Smid *et al.* (2014).

Cyrtopodion persepolense

Nazarov, Ananjeva & Radjabizadeh, 2009

Cyrtopodion persepolense Nazarov, Ananjeva & Radjabizadeh, 2009: 317.

COMMON NAME. — Persepolis Bent-toed Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — ZMMU R-12626.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Southern Iran, Fars Province, 60 km North East of Shiraz, Takht-e-Jamshid (Persepolis), 29°55'N, 52°53'E.

DISTRIBUTION. — Only known only from the type locality and likely to be found within the Fars Province.

HABITAT. — Found in vertical surfaces with a lot of shelters.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Nazarov *et al.* (2009).

REMARKS

This species is closely similar to *C. gastropholis*.

Cyrtopodion sistanensis
Nazarov & Rajabizadeh, 2007

Cyrtopodion sistanensis Nazarov & Rajabizadeh, 2007: 138.

COMMON NAME. — Sistan Bent-toed Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — ZMMU R-12390.

TYPE LOCALITY. — 90 km West of Zahedan, Nosratabad, 29°50'N, 59°53'E, Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Nazarov and Rajabizadeh found the species in the type locality and in 100 km North, North West of Iranshehr, near Bazman. And it is possible to be found in the central provinces of Iran and bordering regions of Pakistan.

HABITAT. — It inhabits dry low clay incline with poor bushy plants typical for Southern Iran. The habitat is different in Bazman and represented by a more humid valley with rather dense shrub cover.

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCE. — Nazarov & Rajabizadeh (2007).

Genus *Hemidactylus* Oken, 1817

Hemidactylus romeshkanicus
Torki, Manthey & Barts, 2011

Hemidactylus romeshkanicus Torki, Manthey & Barts, 2011: 48.

COMMON NAME. — Lorestan Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — ZMB 75020.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Western slope of the central Zagros Mountains, Romeshkan region, Lorestan Province (33°16'N, 47°35'E).

DISTRIBUTION. — Only known from the type locality.

HABITAT. — A mountainous area covered with sparse oak forest.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Torki *et al.* (2011a).

Genus *Mediodactylus* Szczerbak & Golubev, 1977

Mediodactylus asprtilis (Anderson, 1973)

Bunopus asprtilis Anderson, 1973: 355.

COMMON NAME. — Iranian Keel-scaled Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — USNM 193961.

TYPE LOCALITY. — In 35 km East of Gach Saran (30°20'N, 50°48'E), Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad, Kermanshah, Hamedan, Lorestan and Fars Provinces (Anderson 1999; Kami 1999; Karamiani & Rastegar-Pouyani 2011; Smid *et al.* 2014).

HABITAT. — The type and paratype samples were collected by Anderson (1999) under small and flat stones next to a dry stream, in an area with scattered plants (Anderson 1999). It is also found on the wall and ceiling of buildings (Karamiani & Rastegar-Pouyani 2011).

IUCN. — Data deficient.

REFERENCES. — Anderson (1973; 1999); Kami (1999); Červenka *et al.* (2010); Karamiani & Rastegar-Pouyani (2011); Smid *et al.* (2014).

REMARKS

It was first attributed to the genus *Bunopus* Blanford, 1874. Some authors accept it as *Carinatogekko* Golubev & Szczerbak, 1981 and some others synonymized with *Mediodactylus* (Červenka *et al.* 2010).

Mediodactylus ilamensis (Fathinia, Karamiani, Darvishnia, Heidari & Rastegar-Pouyani, 2011)

Carinatogekko ilamensis Fathinia, Karamiani, Darvishnia, Heidari & Rastegar-Pouyani, 2011: 62.

COMMON NAME. — Ilam keel-scaled Gecko (designated here).

HOLOTYPE. — RUZM-GC120.1.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Limestone sediments of Western foothills of the Zagros Mountains, Zarin-Abad region, Dehloran Township, Ilam Province, at the coordinates of 32°57'51"N, 47°03'23"E.

DISTRIBUTION. — Only known from the area of the type locality.

HABITAT. — According to Fathinia *et al.* (2011) the habitat is composed of gypsum and lime sediment in a semi-desert area. The

samples were collected in the foothills about 200-500 m south of a permanent river.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Fathinia *et al.* (2011).

Mediodactylus sagittifer (Nikolsky, 1900)

Gymnodactylus sagittifer Nikolsky, 1900: 379.

COMMON NAME. — Jaz Murian Middle-toed Gecko.

LECTOTYPE. — ZIL 9331, designated by Szczerbak & Golubev (1986).

TYPE LOCALITY. — Bampur and Farra, in South East of Iran, Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Hormozgan and Sistan and Baluchestan Provinces.

HABITAT. — The species occurs on the trunks and branches of dry Acacia and on the walls of the old underground building (Anderson 1999).

IUCN. — Data deficient.

REFERENCES. — Nikolsky (1900); Szczerbak & Golubev (1986); Anderson (1999); Nazarov *et al.* (2012).

REMARKS

Nazarov *et al.* (2012) considered the species as a synonym of *Cyrtopodion brevipes*.

Mediodactylus stevenandersoni (Torki, 2011)

Carinatogekko stevenandersoni Torki, 2011: 103.

COMMON NAME. — Lorestan Keel-scaled Gecko (designated here).

HOLOTYPE. — ZFMK 91901.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Western slopes of the central Zagros Mountains, Tang-e-Gavshomar region (Ganj-Dare), Delphan City, Lorestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Known from the central Zagros Mountains in Lorestan and Markazi Provinces (Smid *et al.* 2014). It may also occur in similar habitats in Kermanshah and Ilam Provinces (Sadeghi & Torki 2011).

HABITAT. — Found in a mountainous area with oak forest (Smid *et al.* 2014).

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCES. — Torki (2011); Sadeghi & Torki (2011); Smid *et al.* (2014).

Genus *Microgekko* Nikolsky, 1907

Microgekko chabaharensis

Gholamifard, Rastegar-Pouyani, Rastegar-Pouyani,
Khosravani, Hosseinian Yousefkhani & Oraei, 2016

Microgekko chabaharensis Gholamifard, Rastegar-Pouyani, Rastegar-Pouyani, Khosravani, Hosseinian Yousefkhani & Oraei, 2016: 28.

COMMON NAME. — Chabahar Dwarf Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — SUHC 1273.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Rasoul Abad village, between Chabahar and Konarak, Chabahar County, Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Kerman, Fars and Sistan and Baluchestan Provinces.

HABITAT. — Sandy habitat with semi-dense cover of halophilic bushes.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Gholamifard *et al.* (2016).

Microgecko helenae Nikolsky, 1907

Microgecko helenae Nikolsky, 1907: 265.

COMMON NAME. — Banded Dwarf Gecko.

LECTOTYPE — ZIL 10242.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Alkhorshid, Esfahan, and Bid Zard; restricted to Bid Zard.

DISTRIBUTION. — Western foothills of the Zagros Mountains (Karamiani & Rastegar-Pouyani 2012; Smid *et al.* 2014; Gholamifard *et al.* 2015).

HABITAT. — Under small stones, in rolling foothills with scattered vegetation (Smid *et al.* 2014).

IUCN. — Data deficient.

REFERENCES. — Nikolsky (1907); Karamiani & Rastegar-Pouyani (2012); Smid *et al.* (2014); Gholamifard *et al.* (2015).

Microgecko latifi (Leviton & Anderson, 1972)

Tropicolotes latifi Leviton & Anderson, 1972: 3.

COMMON NAME. — Latifi's Dwarf Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — CAS 134365.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Kerman, Kerman Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — The Central Plateau of Iran and the East and South of Zagros foothills. Found in Kerman, Fars and Esfahan Provinces (Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.* 2009; Smid *et al.* 2014).

HABITAT. — Under stones, large rocks, in wadi covered with bushes and on mountain crest (Smid *et al.* 2014).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Leviton & Anderson (1972); Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.* (2009); Smid *et al.* (2014).

Genus *Parsigecko*

Safaei-Mahroo, Ghaffari & Anderson, 2016

Parsigecko ziaiei

Safaei-Mahroo, Ghaffari & Anderson, 2016

Parsigecko ziaiei Safaei-Mahroo, Ghaffari & Anderson, 2016: 430.

COMMON NAME. — Ziaie's Pars-Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — CAS 259180.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Koh-e Homag, in the Zagros Mountains, Hormozgan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Only known from the type locality.

HABITAT. — Forest steppe habitat.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Safaei-Mahroo *et al.* (2016).

Genus *Tropicolotes* Peters, 1880

Tropicolotes hormozganensis

Rounaghi, Rastegar-Pouyani & Hosseinian, 2018

Tropicolotes hormozganensis Rounaghi, Rastegar-Pouyani & Hosseinian, 2018: 18.

COMMON NAME. — Hormozgan Dwarf Gecko (designated here).

HOLOTYPE. — SUHC 1818.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Bandar-e Lengeh, Hormozgan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — From the type locality.

HABITAT. — The samples were collected from flat, coastal regions covered by various vegetation types (shrubs and trees).

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Rounaghi *et al.* (2018).

Tropicolotes naybandensis

Krause, Ahmadzadeh, Moazeni, Wagner & Wilms, 2013
(Fig. 4)

Tropicolotes naybandensis Krause, Ahmadzadeh, Moazeni, Wagner & Wilms, 2013: 30.

COMMON NAME. — Nayband Dwarf Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — ZFMK 92344.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Nayband, Asalouyeh, Bushehr Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Known from Bushehr and Fars Provinces (Krause *et al.* 2013; Smid *et al.* 2014).

HABITAT. — Found under stones, living in semi-desert habitats (Smid *et al.* 2014).

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCES. — Krause *et al.* (2013); Smid *et al.* (2014).



Fig. 4. — *Tropiocolotes naybandensis* Krause, Ahmadzadeh, Moazeni, Wagner & Wilms, 2013. Photo by A. Gholamifard.

Family LACERTIDAE Bonaparte, 1831
Genus *Acanthodactylus* Fitzinger, 1834

Acanthodactylus khamirensis Heidari, Rastegar-Pouyani,
Rastegar-Pouyani & Rajabizadeh, 2013

Acanthodactylus khamirensis Heidari, Rastegar-Pouyani, Rastegar-Pouyani & Rajabizadeh, 2013: 335.

COMMON NAME. — Persian Gulf Fringe-toad Lizard (designated here).

HOLOTYPE. — RUZM 146.

TYPE LOCALITY. — From 26°30'47.4"N, 55°58'44.2"E in 7 km East of Khamir Port, Hormozgan Province (Heidari *et al.* 2013).

DISTRIBUTION. — Type locality and Parsian Country in Hormozgan Province (Heidari *et al.* 2014).

HABITAT. — According to Heidari *et al.* (2014) *A. khamirensis* lives on hard substrates with a dry climate (Heidari *et al.* 2014).

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCES. — Heidari *et al.* (2013, 2014).

REMARK

The divergence of *A. micropholis* Blanford, 1874 from *A. khamirensis* occurred about 2 MYA (Heidari *et al.* 2014).

Acanthodactylus nilsoni Rastegar-Pouyani, 1998
(Fig. 5)

Acanthodactylus nilsoni Rastegar-Pouyani, 1998: 257.

COMMON NAME. — Nilson's Spiny-toed Lizard.

HOLOTYPE. — GNMH 5145.

TYPE LOCALITY. — 5 km South of Qasr-e Shirin, Kermanshah Province, about 7 km from Iran-Iraq border.

DISTRIBUTION. — Known from the type locality, but according to Anderson (1999) the biotope may be extended South, South East and South West in Iraq (Anderson 1999).

HABITAT. — Found in lowland area with soft sandy substrate and stony hills (Rastegar-Pouyani 1998).

IUCN. — Data deficient.

REFERENCES. — Rastegar-Pouyani (1998); Anderson (1999).

Genus *Apathya* Mehely, 1907

Apathya yassujica (Nilson, Rastegar-Pouyani,
Rastegar-Pouyani & Andrén, 2003)

Lacerta yassujica Nilson, Rastegar-Pouyani, Rastegar-Pouyani & Andrén, 2003: 18.

COMMON NAME. — Yassujian Lizard.

HOLOTYPE. — GNM 5612. GNMH.

TYPE LOCALITY. — 30 km South West of Yassuj, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad Province (30°28'N, 51°31'E) (Nilson *et al.* 2003).

DISTRIBUTION. — Western Iran from the type locality and Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province (Nilson *et al.* 2003; Arnold *et al.* 2007; Rajabizadeh *et al.* 2010).

HABITAT. — On rocky slopes with open *Quercus* forest (Nilson *et al.* 2003). According to Rajabizadeh *et al.* (2010) it is found in mountainous area with scattered vegetation.

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Nilson *et al.* (2003); Arnold *et al.* (2007); Rajabizadeh *et al.* (2010); Kapli *et al.* (2013).



FIG. 5. — *Acanthodactylus nilsoni* Rastegar-Pouyani, 1998. Photo by H. Faizi.

REMARK

According to Kapli *et al.* (2013) “The phylogeographical scenario emerging from the genetic data suggests that the present distribution of the genus was determined by a combination of dispersal and vicariance events between Anatolia and South West of Asia dating back to the Miocene and continuing up to the Pleistocene”.

HABITAT. — Tree trunks and forest floor (Smid *et al.* 2014).

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCES. — Ahmadzadeh *et al.* (2013); Smid *et al.* (2014).

REMARK

It is a sister taxon of *D. chlorogaster* (Boulenger, 1908) and a part of *D. chlorogaster* complex (Ahmadzadeh *et al.* 2013).

Genus *Darevskia* Arribas, 1997

Darevskia caspica Ahmadzadeh, Flecks, Carretero, Mozaffari, Böhme, Harris, Freitas & Rödder, 2013

Darevskia caspica Ahmadzadeh, Flecks, Carretero, Mozaffari, Böhme, Harris, Freitas & Rödder, 2013: 9.

COMMON NAME. — Mazandaran Lizard (designated here).

HOLOTYPE. — ZFMK 94109.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Beliroon, Amol, Mazandaran Province, (36°23'38"N, 52°25'1.48"E).

DISTRIBUTION. — In central part of the Hyrcanian forest, Mazandaran Province (Ahmadzadeh *et al.* 2013).

Darevskia defilippii (Camerano, 1877)

Podarcis defilippii Camerano, 1877: 90.

COMMON NAME. — Alborz Lizard.

SYNTYPES. — MSNTO R2713, MSNTO R2734.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Lar Valley and Damavand, Tehran Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Western part of the Alborz Mountains, Northern Iran (Ahmadzadeh *et al.* 2013).

HABITAT. — Small loose rocks, on rocky protrusions and shrubby vegetation (Anderson 1999).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Camerano (1877); Anderson (1999); Ahmadzadeh *et al.* (2013).

REMARK

The name initially proposed by Camerano (1877) revealed a complex of four species (Anderson 1999; Ahmadzadeh *et al.* 2013).

Darevskia kamii Ahmadzadeh, Flecks, Carretero, Mozaffari, Böhme, Harris, Freitas & Rödder, 2013

Darevskia kamii Ahmadzadeh, Flecks, Carretero, Mozaffari, Böhme, Harris, Freitas & Rödder, 2013: 11.

COMMON NAME. — Kami's Rock Lizard.

HOLOTYPE. — ZFMK 94118.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Naharkhoran Forest, Gorgan, Golestan Province (36°46'33.61"N, 54°27'48.01"E).

DISTRIBUTION. — Western parts of the Hyrcanian forest, Golestan Province (Ahmadzadeh *et al.* 2013).

HABITAT. — According to Smid *et al.* (2014): "Tree trunks and forest floor".

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCES. — Ahmadzadeh *et al.* (2013); Smid *et al.* (2014).

REMARK

This species with *D. caspica* Ahmadzadeh, Flecks, Carretero, Mozaffari, Böhme, Harris, Freitas & Rödder, 2013 and *D. chlorogaster* form the *D. chlorogaster* complex (Ahmadzadeh *et al.* 2013).

Darevskia schaeckeli Ahmadzadeh, Flecks, Carretero, Mozaffari, Böhme, Harris, Freitas & Rödder, 2013

Darevskia schaeckeli Ahmadzadeh, Flecks, Carretero, Mozaffari, Böhme, Harris, Freitas & Rödder, 2013: 12.

COMMON NAME. — Schäkel's Rock Lizard.

HOLOTYPE. — ZFMK 94200.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Firouzkooh (35°44'54.56"E, 52°44'48.58"N) Tehran Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — It occupies some Eastern parts of the Alborz Mountains in Northern Iran (Ahmadzadeh *et al.* 2013).

HABITAT. — Alpine vegetation, rocky outcrops and loose scree at elevations from 1720 m to 2198 m a.s.l. (Smid *et al.* 2014).

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCES. — Ahmadzadeh *et al.* (2013); Smid *et al.* (2014).

REMARK

It is a part of *D. deflippii* complex, being sister taxon of *D. steineri* (Eiselt, 1995) (Ahmadzadeh *et al.* 2013).

Darevskia steineri (Eiselt, 1995)

Lacerta steineri Eiselt, 1995: 63.

COMMON NAME. — Steiner's Lizard.

HOLOTYPE. — NMW 33715.

TYPE LOCALITY. — GoleLoweh near Minou-dasht, Golestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Only known from a few localities in the East Hyrcanian forest in Golestan Province (Ahmadzadeh *et al.* 2013).

HABITAT. — Found in the vicinity of Loveh Waterfall among dense forest, around the timbers and on the ground (Hosseinian Yousefkhani *et al.* 2013; Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.* 2013).

IUCN. — Data deficient.

REFERENCES. — Eiselt (1995); Anderson (1999); Ahmadzadeh *et al.* (2013); Hosseinian Yousefkhani *et al.* (2013); Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.* (2013).

REMARK

Based on Hosseinian Yousefkhani *et al.* (2013) this species is negatively affected by human activities, so more protection is needed for this species. Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.* (2013) stated that the coordinates given by Eiselt (1995) (33°11'N, 35°21'E) for this species are obviously incorrect since this is significantly far from the type locality given by him. They provided the coordinates of collecting locality (37°20'53"N, 55°40'28"E) for their collected material, being far from the Eiselt locality. *Darevskia steineri*, *D. schaeckeli* Ahmedzadah, Flecks, Carretero, Mozaffari, Böhme, Harris, Freitas & Rödder, 2013, *D. deflippii* (Camerano, 1877) and *D. kopetdaghica* Ahmedzadah, Flecks, Carretero, Mozaffari, Böhme, Harris, Freitas & Rödder, 2013, form the *D. deflippii*-complex (Ahmadzadeh *et al.* 2013).

Genus *Eremias* Fitzinger, 1834

Eremias andersoni Darevsky & Szczerbak, 1978

Eremias andersoni Darevsky & Szczerbak, 1978: 13.

COMMON NAME. — Anderson's Racerunner.

HOLOTYPE. — MMTT 1671.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Dashte-Kavir Desert, 45 km East of Namak Lake (34°30'N, 52°40'E).

DISTRIBUTION. — Dashte-Kavir Desert in Semnan, Qom and Esfahan Provinces (Safaei-Mahroo *et al.* 2015).

HABITAT. — Isolated areas of semi-stable sands in stony desert. Largely found in the low areas between dunes among grasses and low shrubs (Anderson 1999).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Darevsky & Shcherbak (1978); Anderson (1999); Safaei-Mahroo *et al.* (2015).

REMARK

This species is known only from the holotype and two paratypes. According to morphological evaluations, it shows affinity to *Eremias fasciata* Blanford, 1874, but its subgeneric position remains unclear (Darevsky & Shcherbak 1978; Anderson 1999).

Eremias isfahanica Rastegar-Pouyani, Hosseinian, Rafiee, Kami, Rajabizadeh & Wink, 2016

Eremias isfahanica Rastegar-Pouyani, Hosseinian, Rafiee, Kami, Rajabizadeh & Wink, 2016: 212.

COMMON NAME. — Esfahan Racerunner (designated here).

HOLOTYPE. — SUHC 3012.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Collected 54 km North West of Esfahan city, near the Hassanije village within the Ghomishloo National Park (32°84'N, 51°10'E; 1200 m a.s.l.).

HABITAT. — Collected from the desert area with small scattered shrubs. Found in sub-mountainous region extending to the mountains.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.* (2016).

Eremias kavirensis Mozaffari & Parham, 2007

Eremias kavirensis Mozaffari & Parham, 2007: 569.

COMMON NAME. — Kavir Desert Lacerta.

HOLOTYPE. — MMTT/AHI 1008, CAS 238636.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Maranjab sand dunes, 34°17'51"N, 51°50'57"E, Esfahan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Only currently known from the type locality and believed to be a restricted-range species.

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCE. — Mozaffari & Parham (2007).

HABITAT. — This species is believed to be endemic to the Maranjab sand dune habitat. Animals are found in the sand dunes, and are not present in surrounding gravelly areas. The dune weed *Stipagrostis pennata* De Winter, 1963 dominates the vegetation at the type locality. *E. kavirensis* is presumably an egg-laying species.

REMARK

This species can be differentiated from *Eremias grammica* (Lichtenstein, 1883) by having enlarged tibial scales and from *E. acutirostris* (Boulenger, 1887) by having scales of the flank larger than those of the back as well as having two rows of enlarged tibial scales instead of one.

Eremias lalezharica Moravec, 1994

Eremias lalezharica Moravec, 1994: 61.

COMMON NAME. — Lalezhar Racerunner.

HOLOTYPE. — NMP6V 34555/3.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Lalezhar, Kerman Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — In addition to the localities of the holotype and paratypes, Hosseinian Yousefkhani & Rastegar-Pouyani (2013) found a new locality for *Eremias lalezharica* on the road from Jiroft to Darb-e Behesht, in the Babgorgi region, 100 km to the South East of the terra typica along the Lalezhar Mountains, with coordinates 29°05'N, 57°32'E, and an elevation of 2890 m.

HABITAT. — *E. lalezharica* has been recorded from a mountain plateau with degraded steppe habitat, rural gardens and fields and wet meadows. Specimens were collected in open fields of soil and stones washed down the slopes of Mount Lalezhar. Animals were observed along the banks of an irrigation ditch and in the vicinity of irrigated gardens (Moravec 1994; Anderson 1999).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Moravec (1994); Anderson (1999); Hosseinian Yousefkhani & Rastegar-Pouyani (2013).

Eremias montana

Rastegar-Pouyani & Rastegar-Pouyani, 2001

Eremias montana Rastegar-Pouyani & Rastegar-Pouyani, 2001: 108.

COMMON NAME. — Mountain Racerunner.

HOLOTYPE. — Field number P198.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Upland regions of the Zagros Mountains, 60 km North East of city of Kermanshah (34°52'N, 47°5'E), Kermanshah Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — In addition to the localities of the holotype and paratypes, *E. montana* has been found in South regions of Hamedan Province, about 21 km South West of Hamedan city (c. 34°33'N, 48°25'E) at 2800 m a.s.l. and in the highlands of Badr and Parishan (2466 m a.s.l.) in South of Qorveh, Kurdistan Province, Western Iran (35°04'N, 47°47'E) (Rastegar-Pouyani & Rastegar-Pouyani 2005; Bahmani *et al.* 2011).

HABITAT. — This species is associated with upland and mountainous steppes, with luxurious vegetation. The animals forage among shrubs and hide in holes when disturbed. In the Alvand Mountains, this species has been recorded from stony hills and mountainous steppes. Vegetation at the type locality is mainly *Astragalus*, *Euphorbia*, *Gondelium* as well as other species of the families Gramineae and Compositae. The area is snow-covered during the winter, with a relatively short mild summer period. Animals may be found foraging among the shrubs, and take refuge in these shrubs when alarmed (Rastegar-Pouyani & Rastegar-Pouyani 2005).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Rastegar-Pouyani & Rastegar-Pouyani (2001, 2005); Bahmani *et al.* (2011).

Eremias papenfussi

Mozaffari, Ahmadzadeh & Parham, 2011

Eremias papenfussi Mozaffari, Ahmadzadeh & Parham, 2011: 57.

COMMON NAME. — Papenfuss's Racerunner.

HOLOTYPE. — ZFMK 91701.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Sooleghan Mountains (35°47'44.9"N, 51°14'20.2"E), Tehran Province in the Alborz Mountain Range.

DISTRIBUTION. — In addition to the localities of the holotype and paratypes, other specimens were collected from the Vard Avard region in Tehran Province (35°47'56.48"N, 51°7'34.40"E).

HABITAT. — Part of the Alborz Mountains consists of mild rocky slopes. The dominant vegetation is *Amygdalus*, *Astragalus* and annual grasses.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Mozaffari *et al.* (2011a).

Genus *Iranolacera* Arnold, Arribas & Carranza, 2007

Iranolacerta zagrosica

(Rastegar-Pouyani & Nilson 1998)

Lacerta zagrosica Rastegar-Pouyani & Nilson, 1998: 268.

COMMON NAME. — Zagros Mountain Lacerta.

HOLOTYPE. — GNHM Re. ex. 5149.

TYPE LOCALITY. — 3 km North West of FereydunShahr, at the main Zagros Range, Esfahan Province (32°58'N, 50°04'E).

DISTRIBUTION. — Lorestan, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari and Esfahan Provinces.

HABITAT. — Found on or under rock fissure and in rocky and vertical slopes (Rastegar-Pouyani & Nilson 1998; Nilson *et al.* 2003).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Rastegar-Pouyani & Nilson (1998); Nilson *et al.* (2003).

Genus *Timon* Tschudi, 1836

Timon princeps (Blanford, 1874)

Lacerta princeps Blanford, 1874b: 31.

COMMON NAME. — Zagrosian Lizard.

HOLOTYPE. — ZSI 3351.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Neyriz, about 60 km East of Shiraz, Fars Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — "From South of Kermanshah Province through a belt between the West of Zagros hillsides and the Mesopotamian Plain to Fars Province" (Smid *et al.* 2014).

HABITAT. — Dry hills with xerothermic vegetation (Smid *et al.* 2014).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Blanford (1874b); Ahmadzadeh *et al.* (2012); Smid *et al.* (2014).

REMARK

This is a sister clade to *T. kurdistanicus* (Suchow, 1936) with a divergence time occurred between them about 4-5 my ago (Ahmadzadeh *et al.* 2012).

Family PHYLLODACTYLIDAE

Gamble, Bauer, Greenbaum & Jackman, 2008

Genus *Asaccus* Dixon & Anderson, 1973

Asaccus andersoni Torki, Fathinia, Rostami, Gharzi & Nazari-Serenheh, 2011

Asaccus andersoni Torki, Fathinia, Rostami, Gharzi & Nazari-Serenheh, 2011: 52.

COMMON NAME. — Anderson Leaf-toad Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — ZMB 75015.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Mont Darbaste, 2 km North of Teran village, Ivan City, Ilam Province, West of Iran.

DISTRIBUTION. — Only recorded from the type locality.

HABITAT. — A mountainous area covered with scattered oak forests which is characterized by deeply carved-out gullies running from the base to the top with large rocks and boulders inside and high rocky walls at both sides.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Torki *et al.* (2011b).

Asaccus granularis Torki, 2010

Asaccus granularis Torki 2010a: 4.

COMMON NAME. — Lorestan Leaf-toad Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — ZMB 75010.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Khers-Dar village, 5 km North West of Pole-dokhtar town, Lorestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Known from the type locality only.

HABITAT. — Mountainous regions covered with open oak forests. The species uses the spaces under rocky outcrops as shelter.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Torki (2010a).

REMARK

The species differs from all Iranian congeners by the absence of tubercular scales on the neck and upper side of the head.

Asaccus iranicus

Torki, Ahmadzadeh, Ilgaz, Avci, & Kumluta, 2011

Asaccus iranicus Torki, Ahmadzadeh, Ilgaz, Avci, & Kumluta, 2011: 187.

COMMON NAME. — Iranian Leaf-toad Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — ZFMK 91933.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Coastal Persian Gulf, Assaloye City, Bushehr Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Only known from the type locality.

HABITAT. — Elevation of type locality is 100 m a.s.l. No mountain or hill is found in the region.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Torki et al. (2011c).

REMARK

A. iranicus differs from all other congeners as follows: the direction of the fingers to forelimb palm is different, scancers do not extend beyond claws, and the tubercles are present on the arms.

Asaccus kermanshabensis Rastegar-Pouyani, 1996*Asaccus kermanshabensis* Rastegar-Pouyani, 1996: 12.

COMMON NAME. — Kermanshah Leaf-toad Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — TUZM 164R.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Mian-Rahan, 40 km North East of Kermanshah city, Kermanshah Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Only known from the type locality.

HABITAT. — Rock crevices and small caves in the Zagros Mountains.

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCE. — Rastegar-Pouyani (1996).

Asaccus kurdistanensis

Rastegar-Pouyani, Nilson, & Faizi, 2006

Asaccus kurdistanensis Rastegar-Pouyani, Nilson & Faizi, 2006: 142.

COMMON NAME. — Kurdistan Leaf-toad Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — RUZM 1999.

TYPE LOCALITY. — 10 km North West of Sarvabad, between Marivan and Sanandaj, Kurdistan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Kurdistan and Kermanshah Provinces, Western Iran.

HABITAT. — Mountainous areas with large boulders and rocks intermixed with scattered oak forest.

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCE. — Rastegar-Pouyani et al. (2006).

Asaccus nasrullahi Werner, 2006*Asaccus nasrullahi* Werner, 2006: 136.

COMMON NAME. — Nasrullah's Leaf-toed Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — ZMUC-R 3447.

TYPE LOCALITY. — ShahBazan, Lorestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Lorestan and Ilam Provinces.

HABITAT. — Zagros Mountains, with temperate climate, and the dominant vegetation mostly composing of oak trees. The microhabitat of this species composed of deep valleys with large boulders and deep crevices.

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCE. — Werner (2006).

REMARK

The holotype has been misidentified as a *Ptyodactylus* Goldfuss, 1820 by Schmidt (1952). The holotype resembles *A. griseonotus* Dixon & Anderson, 1973 in many characters. Additional work is needed to reveal the taxonomic status of the two species.

Asaccus tangestanensis Torki, Ahmadzadeh, Ilgaz, Avci & Kumluta, 2011*Asaccus tangestanensis* Torki, Ahmadzadeh, Ilgaz, Avci & Kumluta, 2011: 190.

COMMON NAME. — Tangestan Leaf-toad Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — ZFMK 91934.

TYPE LOCALITY. — The end of Southern Zagros Mountains, Khaiiz, Tangestan City, Bushehr Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — In addition to the type locality, the species has been found in the Jam region, Jam to Kangan road, Bushehr Province.

HABITAT. — Sedimentary mountainous area. It shelters in limited clefts and caves in this mountain.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Torki et al. (2011c).

Asaccus zagrosicus Torki, Ahmadzadeh, Ilgaz, Avci & Kumluta, 2011*Asaccus zagrosicus* Torki, Ahmadzadeh, Ilgaz, Avci & Kumluta, 2011: 193.

COMMON NAME. — Zagros Leaf-toad Gecko.

HOLOTYPE. — ZFMK 91935.

TYPE LOCALITY. — The Western slopes of central Zagros Mountains, Tang-e-Haft region, Khorramabad City, Lorestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Only known from the type locality.



FIG. 6. — *Teratoscincus sistanense* Akbarpour, Shafiei, Sehhatiasabet & Damadi, 2017. Photo by M. E. Sehhatiasabet.

HABITAT. — Found in several tunnels in the Tang-e-Haft Region, South of Lorestan. The region has a warm climatic condition and is located between central Zagros Mountains and Khuzestan Plain.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Torki *et al.* (2011c).

REMARK

Secondary postmentals are not in contact with lower labials, scansors do not extend beyond claws, and the tubercles are present on the arm.

Family SPHAERODACTYLIDAE Underwood, 1954
Genus *Teratoscincus* Strauch, 1863

Teratoscincus mesriensis
Nazarov, Radjabizadeh, Poyarkov, Ananjeva,
Melnikov & Rastegar Pouyani, 2017

Teratoscincus mesriensis Nazarov, Radjabizadeh, Poyarkov, Ananjeva,
Melnikov & Rastegar Pouyani, 2017: 299.

COMMON NAME. — Mesr Wonder Gecko (designated here).

HOLOTYPE. — ZMMU R-15156.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Environs of Mesr, Esfahan Province, 34°04'N,
54°47'E, elevation 845 m a.s.l.

DISTRIBUTION. — Known from the type locality (sand dunes near
Mesr, Esfahan Province).

HABITAT. — Found in sandy areas.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Nazarov *et al.* (2017).

Teratoscincus sistanense
Akbarpour, Shafiei, Sehhatiasabet & Damadi, 2017
(Fig. 6)

Teratoscincus sistanense Akbarpour, Shafiei, Sehhatiasabet & Damadi,
2017: 297.

COMMON NAME. — Sistan Wonder Gecko (designated here).

HOLOTYPE. — ZMSBUK 704.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Zahak, 30°53'42"N, 61°40'34"E, 492 m, Zabol
County, Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Zabol County, Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

HABITAT. — It occurs in sandy area with scattered vegetation.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Akbarpour *et al.* (2017).

Family SCINCIDAE Oppel, 1811
Genus *Eumeces* Wiegmann, 1834

Eumeces persicus
Faizi, Rastegar-Pouyani, Rastegar-Pouyani, Nazarov,
Heidari, Zangi, Orlova & Poyarkov, 2017
(Fig. 7)

Eumeces persicus Faizi, Rastegar-Pouyani, Rastegar-Pouyani, Nazarov,
Heidari, Zangi, Orlova & Poyarkov, 2017: 294.

COMMON NAME. — Persian Striped Skink.

HOLOTYPE. — RUZM-SE-07.

TYPE LOCALITY. — 28 km South West of Tehran Province
around the Imam Khomainsi Airport (IKA), at an elevation of
about 1100 m.



FIG. 7. — *Eumeces persicus* Faizi, Rastegar-Pouyani, Rastegar-Pouyani, Nazarov, Heidari, Zangi, Orlova & Poyarkov, 2017. Photo by H. Faizi

DISTRIBUTION. — From South of Tehran to Kerman Province at the eastern Zagros Mountain slopes.

HABITAT. — Found in broad flat vegetated plains with scattered bushes with soft soils.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Faizi *et al.* (2017).

REMARK

Until now the species is recorded from two localities: South of Tehran (holotype) and Kerman Provinces (paratypes).

Genus *Ophiomorus* Duméril & Bibron, 1839

Ophiomorus maranjabensis
Kazemi, Qomi, Kami & Anderson, 2011

Ophiomorus maranjabensis Kazemi, Qomi, Kami & Anderson, 2011: 24.

COMMON NAME. — Maranjab Snake Skink.

HOLOTYPE. — ZMGU 2570.

TYPE LOCALITY. — From South of Namak Lake, Maranjab, Esfahan Province, 34°19'N, 51°53'E. (Kazemi *et al.* 2011).

DISTRIBUTION. — In addition to the localities of the holotype and paratypes (around 1 km South West of holotype), in 2011 another specimen (ZMGU.2588) was collected in a village, about 45 km far from the type locality on coordinates 33°55'N, 51°45'E (Qomi *et al.* 2012).

HABITAT. — Found under the soil loose sandy area with scattered vegetation (Kazemi *et al.* 2011), as well as a farmland (Qomi *et al.* 2012).

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCES. — Kazemi *et al.* (2011); Qomi *et al.* (2012).

Ophiomorus nuchalis Nilson & Andrén, 1978

Ophiomorus nuchalis Nilson & Andrén, 1978: 559.

COMMON NAME. — Plateau Snake Skink.

HOLOTYPE. — GNM 4418.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Siah Kuh in the Kavir Protected Region (34°44'N, 52°11'E), Semnan Province (Anderson 1999).

DISTRIBUTION. — Until now the species is recorded from the following provinces: Alborz, Tehran, Qom, Semnan, Esfahan and Yazd (Mozaffari *et al.* 2011b; Qomi *et al.* 2011; Farhadi *et al.* 2015; Hosseinzadeh *et al.* 2016; Sami *et al.* 2017).

HABITAT. — Found under stones on the gravel ground (Anderson 1999), in loose soil layer mixed with plant detritus under bushes (Smid *et al.* 2014), as well as farmlands (Qomi *et al.* 2011).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Nilson & Andrén (1978); Anderson (1999); Mozaffari *et al.* (2011b); Qomi *et al.* (2011); Smid *et al.* (2014); Farhadi *et al.* (2015); Hosseinzadeh *et al.* (2016); Sami *et al.* (2017).

Ophiomorus persicus (Steindachner, 1867)

Hemipodion persicum Steindachner, 1867: 265.

COMMON NAME. — Persia Snake Skink.

SYNTYPES. — NMWest 10398:1, 2 and 10399:1, 2.

TYPE LOCALITY. — 5 km South East of Pol-i-Abgineh approximately 29°33'N, 51°46'E, Fars Province (Anderson & Leviton 1966; Anderson 1999).

DISTRIBUTION. — Fars, Kerman and Hormozgan Provinces (Anderson & Leviton 1966; Frynta *et al.* 1997; Anderson 1999; Kiabi *et al.* 1999; Sami *et al.* 2017).

HABITAT. — Sandy-clay soil with bushy vegetation like *Artemisia* (Smid *et al.* 2014).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Steindachner (1867); Anderson & Leviton (1966); Frynta *et al.* (1997); Anderson (1999); Kiabi *et al.* (1999); Smid *et al.* (2014); Sami *et al.* (2017).

Ophiomorus streeti Anderson & Leviton, 1966

Ophiomorus streeti Anderson & Leviton, 1966: 512.

COMMON NAME. — Street's Snake Skink.

HOLOTYPE. — FMNH 141551.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Eleven miles West of Iranshahr, Sistan and Baluchestan Province (Anderson 1999).

DISTRIBUTION. — Sistan and Baluchestan and Kerman Provinces (Sami *et al.* 2017).

HABITAT. — Living in dry sandy ground (Rathor 1969).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Anderson & Leviton (1966); Rathor (1969); Anderson (1999); Sami *et al.* (2017).

REMARK

The collecting area is common with *O. brevipes* (Blanford, 1874)(Anderson & Leviton 1966; Smid *et al.* 2014).

Suborder SERPENTES Linnaeus, 1785

Family COLUBRIDAE Oppel, 1811

Genus *Eirenis* Jan, 1863

Eirenis kermanensis

Rajabizadeh, Schmidtler, Orlov & Soleimani, 2012

Eirenis kermanensis Rajabizadeh, Schmidtler, Orlov & Soleimani, 2012: 311.

COMMON NAME. — Dark-headed Dwarf Racer.

HOLOTYPE. — ICSTZM7H1062.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Sarduih region, Babe Karafs village, Kerman Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Kerman Province (Rajabizadeh *et al.* 2012).

HABITAT. — Valleys and mountainsides to the elevation of 2800 m a.s.l. Habitat substrate is composed of igneous stones and sandy soil. Habitat is characterized by a high density of *Artemisia* sp. and scattered trees of *Amygdalus* sp. and terebinth (Rajabizadeh *et al.* 2012).

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCES. — Rajabizadeh *et al.* (2012); Mahlow *et al.* (2013); Safaei-Mahroo *et al.* (2015).

REMARK

The morphology of this species is similar to *E. medus* (Chernov, 1940), requiring further investigations to be done (Mahlow *et al.* 2013).

Eirenis rechingeri Eiselt, 1971

Eirenis rechingeri Eiselt, 1971: 375.

COMMON NAME. — Rechinger's Dwarf Racer.

HOLOTYPE. — NMW 19588.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Dashte-Arjan, West of Shiraz, Fars Province, South of Iran.

DISTRIBUTION. — Fars Province (Gholamhosseini *et al.* 2009).

HABITAT. — Few data are available for the habitat of this species, but the holotype was collected at dawn on the bank of a temporary dry river close to a hill of soft limestone covered with degraded bush forest steppe (Mahlow *et al.* 2013).

IUCN. — Data deficient.

REFERENCES. — Eiselt (1971); Gholamhosseini *et al.* (2009); Mahlow *et al.* (2013).

Genus *Hierophis* Fitzinger, 1843

Hierophis andreanus (Werner, 1917)

Zamenis andreanus Werner, 1917: 207.

COMMON NAME. — Andreas' Racer.

SYNTYPE. — ZFMK 31600.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Southern parts of the Zagros Mountains.

DISTRIBUTION. — Bushehr, Fars, Ilam, Kerman, Kermanshah, and Lorestan Provinces (Rajabizadeh & Rastegar-Pouyani 2009, Fathinia *et al.* 2010; Torki 2010b).

HABITAT. — Rocky areas and human habitations in the Zagros Mountains (Fathinia *et al.* 2010), to the elevation of 2000 m a.s.l. (Rajabizadeh & Rastegar-Pouyani 2009).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Werner (1917); Rajabizadeh & Rastegar-Pouyani (2009), Fathinia *et al.* (2010), Torki (2010b).

Genus *Lytorhynchus* Peters, 1862*Lytorhynchus levitoni* Torki, 2017

Lytorhynchus levitoni Torki, 2017a: 110.

COMMON NAME. — Kabir Kuh Leafnose Snake (designated here).

HOLOTYPE. — MTD 49319.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Western slope of the Kabir Kuh Mountains, Abdanan region, Ilam Province (33°02'N, 47°18'E).

DISTRIBUTION. — Only known from the type locality, Abdanan, Ilam Province, Kabir Kuh, South of West Zagros Mountains, Western Iran.

HABITAT. — Collected from flat land covered by scattered oak woodland.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Torki (2017a).

Genus *Rhynchocalamus* Günther, 1864*Rhynchocalamus ilamensis* Fathinia, Rastegar-Pouyani, Rastegar-Pouyani, Darvishnia, 2017

Rhynchocalamus ilamensis Fathinia, Rastegar-Pouyani, Rastegar-Pouyani, Darvishnia, 2017: 477.

COMMON NAME. — Ilam Black-headed Snake (designated here).

HOLOTYPE. — YUZM-CR.h.1.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Bina and Bijar No-hunting Area (33°38'N, 46°2'E, 724 m a.s.l.), Ilam Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — It is known from Ilam Province.

HABITAT. — The species present in limestone Western foothills of the Zagros Mountains covering with annual to perennial plant.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Fathinia *et al.* (2017).

REMARK

Further investigation is needed to reveal whether *Lytorhynchus levitoni* and *Rhynchocalamus Ilamensis* are synonyms.

Genus *Spalerosophis* Jan, 1865*Spalerosophis microlepis* Jan, 1865

Spalerosophis microlepis Jan, 1865: 356.

COMMON NAME. — Zebra Snake.

LECTOTYPE. — MZUT R1843

TYPE LOCALITY. — Laristan (Larestan), Fars Province (Gholamifard 2011).

DISTRIBUTION. — Ilam, Lorestan, Fars, Khuzestan, Hamadan, Markazi, Qom, Kerman, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, and Esfahan (Safaei-Mahroo *et al.* 2015).

HABITAT. — The species occurs in mountainous areas, foothills, fields, grasslands, and semi-desert regions (Hosseinzadeh *et al.* 2017).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCE. — Jan (1865); Gholamifard (2011); Safaei-Mahroo *et al.* (2015); Hosseinzadeh *et al.* (2017).

REMARK

Presence of this species in Semnan, Yazd, northern Hormozgan and Iraq need to be confirmed (Hosseinzadeh *et al.* 2017).

Family ELAPIDAE Boie, 1827

Genus *Bungarus* Daudin, 1803*Bungarus persicus* Abtin, Nilson, Hosseini, Mobaraki & Dehgannejhad, 2014

Bungarus persicus Abtin, Nilson, Hosseini, Mobaraki & Dehgannejhad, 2014: 244.

COMMON NAME. — Persian Krait.

HOLOTYPE. — ZMGU3121.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Sarbaz, Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

HABITAT. — Flat plains with seasonal river beds and scattered vegetation comprising mainly of shrubs and some trees. The habitat lies in this arid region is characterized by having very hot summers and a bit cold winters.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Abtin *et al.* (2014).

REMARKS

This krait is similar to *B. sindanus* Boulenger, 1897 in many traits, requiring additional work to reveal the taxonomic status of the two kraits.

Family TYPHLOPIDAE Merrem, 1820

Genus *Xerotyphlops*

Hedges, Marion, Lipp, Marin & Vidal, 2014

Xerotyphlops luristanicus Torki, 2017

Xerotyphlops luristanicus Torki, 2017b: 1.

COMMON NAME. — Lorestan Blind Snake or Laki Blind Snake.

HOLOTYPE. — MNHN-RA 2016.0040.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Badavar region, Nourabad, Lorestan Province, West of Zagros Mountains, Western Iran (34°07'N, 47°53'E).

DISTRIBUTION. — Only known from the type locality.

HABITAT. — Valley of the Badavar River.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Torki (2017b).

Xerotyphlops wilsoni (Wall, 1908)

Typhlops wilsoni Wall, 1908: 796.

COMMON NAME. — Wilson's Blind Snake.

HOLOTYPE. — Unlocated.

TYPE LOCALITY. — May-Haftaan, Shooshtar, Khuzestan Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Only known from the type locality.

HABITAT. — Deficiency of information.

IUCN. — Data deficient.

REFERENCE. — Wall (1908).

Family VIPERIDAE Opperl, 1811
Genus *Montivipera* Nilson, Tuniyev, Andr n,
Orlov, Joger & Herrmann, 1999

Montivipera kuhrangica
Rajabizadeh, Nilson & Kami, 2011

Montivipera kuhrangica Rajabizadeh, Nilson & Kami, 2011: 235.

COMMON NAME. — Kuhrang Mountain Viper.

HOLOTYPE. — ZMGU2203.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Tulip valley (Dashte Lale) (32°36'N, 50°11'E), North East of Chelgerd village, Kuhrang region, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Chahar Mahal and Bakhtiari Province.

HABITAT. — High elevated mountain valley with medium to high density of vegetation.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCES. — Rajabizadeh *et al.* (2011); Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.* (2014); St mpel *et al.* (2016).

REMARK

Rajabizadeh *et al.* (2011) described this species based on unique color pattern and morphological characters. A molecular study by Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.* (2014) suggested that the three species *Montivipera kuhrangica* Rajabizadeh, Nilson & Kami, 2011; *M. Latifi* (Mertens, Darewsky & Klemmer, 1967) and *M. albicornuta* (Nilsen & Andren, 1985) all are belonging to *M. raddei* (Boettger, 1890). Another phylogenetic study conducted by St mpel *et al.* (2016) suppose that *M. kuhrangica* and *M. latifi* are as valid taxa.

Montivipera latifi
(Mertens, Darewsky & Klemmer, 1967)

Vipera latifi Mertens, Darevsky & Klemmer, 1967: 161-168.

COMMON NAME. — Latifi's Mountain Viper.

HOLOTYPE. — SMF 62585.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Lar valley (2180-2900 m elevation), South West of the Demavend summit in the Alborz Mountains, North East of Tehran.

DISTRIBUTION. — Restricted to a small area in the upper Lar River Basin, in the Central Alborz Mountains of Iran. Although the species has been recorded before from other localities such as Ab-ask, Afjeh, Firuzkuh, Gajereh, Gachsar and Havir, it is believed restricted to the upper Lar River Valley (Nilson 2009; Behrooz *et al.* 2015).

HABITAT. — Rocky habitats in the upper Lar Valley at elevations of 2180 to 2900 m (Andr n & Nilson 1979).

IUCN. — Endangered.

REFERENCES. — Mertens *et al.* (1967); Andr n & Nilson, (1979); Nilson (2009); Behrooz *et al.* (2015).

REMARK

See Remarks of *M. kuhrangica*.

Genus *Pseudocerastes* Boulenger, 1896

Pseudocerastes urarachnoides
Bostanchi, Anderson, Kami & Papenfuss, 2006

Pseudocerastes urarachnoides Bostanchi, Anderson, Kami & Papenfuss, 2006: 446.

COMMON NAME. — Iranian Spider-tailed Viper.

HOLOTYPE. — FMNH 170929.

TYPE LOCALITY. — 70 km South West of Ilam, probably on road to Amirabad and Mehran, Ilam Province (Bostanchi *et al.* 2006).

DISTRIBUTION. — Ilam, Kermanshah and Khuzestan Provinces in West and South West of Iran (Fathinia *et al.* 2009).

HABITAT. — Primarily in limestone sediments occurring in the Provinces with recently-known narrow penetration into rocky habitats of the Zagros Mountains (Fathinia *et al.* 2014).

IUCN. — Data deficient.

REFERENCES. — Bostanchi *et al.* (2006); Fathinia *et al.* (2009); Fathinia (2014).

REMARK

Based on molecular data the Iranian Spider-tailed viper is more closely related to *P. persicus* (Dum ril, Bibron & Dum ril, 1854) than to *P. fieldi* Schmidt, 1930 (Fathinia 2014).

Class AVES Linnaeus, 1758
Order PASSERIFORMES Linnaeus, 1758
Family CORVIDAE Vigors, 1825
Genus *Podoces* Fischer Von Waldheim, 1821

Podoces pleskei Zarudny, 1896
(Fig. 8)

Podoces pleskei Zarudny, 1896: xii.



FIG. 8. — *Podoces pleskei* Zarudny, 1896. Photo by M. Ghorbani.

COMMON NAME. — Iranian Ground-Jay.

HOLOTYPE. — Not traced.

DISTRIBUTION. — Sehhatiasabet (2007) reported this species from Semnan, Esfahan, Tehran, Yazd, Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan, Kerman and Fars Provinces. The most observed individuals were from the Touran Biosphere Reserve in Semnan Province. Balouch in 1977 reported this species also from Sistan and Baluchestan and Golestan Provinces (Radnezhad *et al.* 2011).

HABITAT. — Distributed in desert and semi-desert areas particularly on the Iranian Plateau. The nest is located at the top of and in the compact parts of plants, especially *Atraphaxis spinosa* L., *Ephedra intermedia* Schrenk & C.A.Mey and *Zygophyllum eurypterum* Boiss. & Buhse (Satei *et al.* 2010; Radnezhad *et al.* 2011). Sehhatiasabet (2007) observed all the studied samples in steppe and sandy deserts with spread shrubs of *Zygophyllum* sp., *Haloxylon* sp. and *Ephedra* sp.

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Zarudny (1896); Sehhatiasabet (2007); Satei *et al.* (2010); Radnezhad *et al.* (2011).

REMARK

According to Sehhatiasabet (2007) *P. pleskei* is observed within a few km of the Afghanistan border in the Namakazar Basin between Niyaz Abad and Kalateh Kabudeh in East of Khorasan. Moreover, its range extends toward the Iran-Pakistan border (Radnezhad *et al.* 2011). Despite the LC status of the Iranian Ground-Jay, some crucial factors such as habitat loss and the sample collection for museums affect its populations (Sehhatiasabet 2007).

Class MAMMALIA Linnaeus, 1758
Order SORICOMORPHA Gregory, 1910
Family SORICIDAE G. Fischer, 1814
Genus *Crocidura* Wagler, 1832

Crocidura susiana Redding & Lay, 1978

Crocidura susiana Redding & Lay, 1978: 307.

COMMON NAME. — Iranian Shrew.

HOLOTYPE. — Not traced.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Khuzestan Province, 8 km South West of Dezful (32°19'N, 48°21'E).

DISTRIBUTION. — Known only from the vicinity of Dezful, Khuzestan Province but may have a wider distribution (Redding & Lay 1978; Hutterer 2005; Ziaie 2008).

HABITAT. — This species inhabits semi-arid steppes and the edges of permanent streams with herbaceous plants and scattered shrubs (Karami *et al.* 2016).

IUCN. — Data deficient.

REMARK

Description postdates Lay (1967). This species is known only from a very restricted area, but may range more widely. There is no information available regarding extent of occurrence, area of occupancy and other aspects (Hutterer 2005; Karami *et al.* 2008).

REFERENCES. — Redding & Lay (1978); Hutterer (2005); Karami *et al.* (2008, 2016); Ziaie (2008).

Order RODENTIA Bowdich, 1821
Family CALOMYSCIDAE Vorontsov and Potapova, 1979
Genus *Calomyscus* Thomas, 1905

Calomyscus bailwardi Thomas, 1905

Calomyscus bailwardi Thomas, 1905: 525.

COMMON NAME. — Zagros Mountains Brush-tailed Mouse.

HOLOTYPE. — Not traced.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Khuzestan Province, Zagros Mountains, 120 km South East of Ahvaz, Izeh.

DISTRIBUTION. — Zagros Mountains (Kurdistan, Ilam, Lorestan, Fars, West of Esfahan, East of Khuzestan, Hormozgan, and West of Kerman Provinces (Morshed & Patton 2002; Karami *et al.* 2008; Ziaie 2008). Moreover, it may occur in Gaziantep and Hakkari Provinces of Turkey (Kryštufek & Vohralík 2009) but no specimens are available for confirmation. Hence, actual range has yet to be defined.

HABITAT. — Relatively little is known about its ecology. It is commonly found in forests at intermediate altitudes under evergreens as well as on barren, dry and rocky mountainsides with little vegetation. It favors mountain steppe regions between 400 and 3500 m, and is typically absent from low valleys. Moreover, it favors crevices between stone walls and embankments in small fields and terraced cultivation. In these crevices nests made of woven grass, wool, and other various soft materials have been found (Lay 1967; Grzimek *et al.* 2004).

IUCN. — Least concern.

REFERENCES. — Thomas (1905); Ellerman (1961); Lay, (1967); Morshed & Patton (2002); Grzimek *et al.* (2004); Karami *et al.* (2008); Ziaie (2008); Kryštufek & Vohralík (2009).

REMARK

All Iranian samples from Khuzestan, Fars, Khorasan, Esfahan, Tehran, and Semnan Provinces belonging to several distinct species were listed under *C. bailwardi* by Lay (1967) as *Calomyscus* was considered to be monotypic (Ellerman 1961).

Calomyscus grandis Schlitter & Setzer, 1973

Calomyscus grandis Schlitter & Setzer, 1973: 163.

COMMON NAME. — Noble Brush-tailed Mouse.

HOLOTYPE. — Not traced.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Northern Iran, Tehran Province, foothills of the Alborz Mountains, 11 km North East of Fasham (35°56'N, 51°31'E) (Schlitter & Setzer 1973).

DISTRIBUTION. — This species is known only from the Alborz Mountains in Northern Iran. There are records from the foothills of Alborz Mountains near Fasham, the Southern foothills and ridges (2590 m a.s.l.) of the Mount Demavend, Doab on the crest of the central Alborz Mountains, and on the Northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains in Mazandaran Province at Abass-Abad (36°44'N, 51°08'E) (Norris *et al.* 2008; Kryštufek & Vohralík 2009).

HABITAT. — It is likely to occur in mountain forests (Norris *et al.* 2008). Kilpatrick (2017) identifies habitats as rocky hillsides, along

rock walls of gardens, and on vegetated rocky outcroppings along crested hills and along the flanks of higher mountains.

IUCN. — Data deficient.

REFERENCES. — Schlitter & Setzer (1973); Karami *et al.* (2008); Norris *et al.* (2008); Kryštufek & Vohralík (2009); Kilpatrick (2017).

REMARK

Description postdates Lay (1967). The limits of its distribution remain unresolved and this species almost certainly occurs more widely than current records suggest, though it is likely to be endemic to the Alborz Mountains (Karami *et al.* 2008).

Family CRICETIDAE Fischer, 1817
Genus *Microtus* Schrank, 1798

Microtus irani Thomas, 1921

Microtus irani Thomas, 1921: 580.

COMMON NAME. — Iranian Vole.

HOLOTYPE. — Not traced.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Bagh-i-Rezi, Shiraz, Fars Province, 5200 ft.

DISTRIBUTION. — As currently recognized, this taxon is not endemic to Iran, however it probably should be retained due to the uncertainty of its distribution (Kryštufek 2017a, b) (C. William Kilpatrick comm. pers.). Kock *et al.* (1972) and Kock & Nadler (1983) expanded the range of this species to extend from Western Iran to Israel, a distribution perpetuated by others including Musser & Carleton (1993). Kryštufek & Kefelioglu (2001) re-described *M. irani* based on the holotype and three topotypes and restricted its known distribution back to the type locality. However, analysis of cytochrome *b* (*Cytb*) sequences (Kryštufek *et al.* 2009) suggested that *M. irani* also occurred in Balkusan, Turkey; and Kryštufek *et al.* (2010) recognized this taxon as a new subspecies (*M. i. karamani*). The range of *M. i. karamani* has been expanded to include Lebanon (Kryštufek *et al.* 2013) and western Iran (Mahmoudi *et al.* 2014).

HABITAT. — Steppe in mountains, grasslands with clumps of bushes, cultivated fields, and orchards at elevations of 1000-2100 m (Kryštufek & Kefelioglu 2001; Kryštufek 2017a).

IUCN. — Data deficient.

REFERENCES. — Thomas (1921); Ellerman (1948); Kock *et al.* (1972); Kock & Nadler (1983); Musser & Carleton (1993); Kryštufek & Kefelioglu (2001); Kryštufek *et al.* (2009, 2010, 2013); Mahmoudi *et al.* (2014); Kryštufek (2017a).

REMARK

Included in *M. socialis* (Pallas, 1773) by Lay (1967) following Ellerman (1948). Currently this taxon is proposed to contain three subspecies (*irani* Thomas, 1921, *karamani* Kryštufek, Vohralík, Zima, Koubinová & Bužan, 2010, and *schidlowskii* Argyropulo, 1933) with a distribution including areas of Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Georgia, and Armenia. However, the taxonomic scope and the distributions of these taxa are still poorly understood (Kryštufek 2017a).

Microtus qazvinensis Golenishchev, Malikov, Nazari,
Vaziri, Sablina & Polyakov, 2002

Microtus qazvinensis Golenishchev, Malikov, Nazari, Vaziri, Sablina & Polyakov, 2002: 118.

COMMON NAME. — Qazvin Vole.

HOLOTYPE. — Not traced.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Buin-Zahra (35°39'N, 49°58'E), 65 km South of Qazvin City, Qazvin Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Known with certainty only from its type locality but is likely more widespread in North West-Iran (Golenishchev *et al.* 2002; Shenbrot & Krasnov 2005). Reported from several other localities in North West-Iran by Mahmoudi *et al.* (2015) including Qeydar, Zanjan; Saghez, Kurdistan; and Gazar-dareh. It may occur in East-Turkey (Golenishchev *et al.* 2002).

HABITAT. — *Microtus dogramacii* Kefelioglu & Kryštufek, 1999 (see notes as “Remarks”) is found in open steppic habitats at elevations of 200–800 m (Kryštufek 2017b). There is no direct information on *M. qazvinensis* habitat preferences, though these are likely to be similar to *Microtus guentheri* (Danford & Alston, 1880) and *M. irani* (Shenbrot & Krasnov 2005). Karami *et al.* (2016) reported that this rodent was first observed in an alfalfa field in 1996.

IUCN. — Data deficient.

REFERENCES. — Golenishchev *et al.* (2002); Shenbrot & Krasnov, (2005); Mahmoudi *et al.* (2015); Karami *et al.* (2016); Kryštufek (2017b).

REMARKS

Description postdates Lay (1967). This vole shares the same diploid number of chromosomes (2N=54) as *M. guentheri* Danford & Alston, 1880, but in crossbreeding experiments male offspring appeared to be sterile (Golenishchev *et al.* 2002; Shenbrot & Krasnov 2005). Molecular affinities are with *M. dogramacii* Kefelioglu & Kryštufek, 1999 but Mahmoudi *et al.* (2015) concluded that *M. qazvinensis* was a valid species based on karyotypic and *Cytb* divergence. However, Kryštufek (2017b) recognized it as a subspecies of *M. dogramacii* and suggested that this subspecies may occur in eastern Turkey. Hence, considering this vole as an endemic rodent for Iran depends on whether it is recognized as a distinct species (*M. qazvinensis*) or a subspecies of *Microtus dogramacii* (*M. d. qazvinensis*) (C. William Kilpatrick comm. pers.). Additional studies are needed to support molecular data.

Family DIPODIDAE Waldheim & Fischer, 1817
Genus *Scarturus* Gloger, 1841

Scarturus toussi Darvish, Hajjar, Moghadam-Matin,
Haddad & Akbaryrad, 2008

Scarturus toussi Darvish, Hajjar, Moghadam-Matin, Haddad & Akbaryrad, 2008: 104.

COMMON NAME. — Toussi Jerboa.

HOLOTYPE. — ZMFUM-1398.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Chesme Gilas (36°38'N, 50°19'E), Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — The Toussi Jerboa has been described from the steppe regions of the North East of Iran on the basis of morphological and morphometric data (Darvish *et al.* 2008).

HABITAT. — Poorly known. Steppe regions of the North East of Iran (Darvish *et al.* 2008).

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCES. — Darvish *et al.* (2008); Shenbrot *et al.* (2008); Michaux & Shenbrot (2017).

REMARK

This species is distinguished from its parapatric species, i.e., *S. elater* Lichtenstein, 1825, and other Iranian five-toed jerboas, by differences in external, cranial and molar morphological and morphometric characteristics data (Darvish *et al.* 2008). However, Michaux & Shenbrot (2017) considered the Toussi Jerboa as a subspecies of *Scarturus vinogradovi* Argyropulo, 1941 (*S. v. toussi*).

Scarturus cf. williamsi

(Hamidi, Darvish & M. Matin, 2016)
(Fig. 9)

Paralactaga cf. williamsi Hamidi, Darvish & M. Matin, 2016: 3.

COMMON NAME. — Williams's Jerboa.

HOLOTYPE. — ZMFUM-5028.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Kopet-Dag Mountains, North East of Iran (36°56'N, 59°31'E), Khorasan Razavi Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Kopet-Dag Mountains, North East of Iran (Hamidi *et al.* 2016).

HABITAT. — The altitude of the sampling locality is approximately 2251 m above sea level and the topography is barren high plains, with mounds and rocky habitats. The vegetation of this region is mostly belonging to the following families: Caryophyllaceae, Asteraceae, Zygophyllaceae, Resedaceae, Scrophulariaceae, Asteraceae, Cupressaceae, Rosaceae and Berberidaceae.

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCES. — Hamidi *et al.* (2016); Michaux & Shenbrot (2017).

REMARK

Michaux & Shenbrot (2017) indicated that the *S. cf. williamsi* named by K. Hamidi and colleagues in 2016 is a separate species that needs to be formally described. This taxon could also be possibly closely related to *S. euphraticus caprimulga* Ellerman, 1948. Hence, it could probably be considered as an additional endemic rodent for Iran (C. William Kilpatrick comm. pers.).



FIG. 9. — *Scarturus cf. williamsi* (Hamidi, Darvish & M. Matin, 2016). Photo by K. Hamidi.

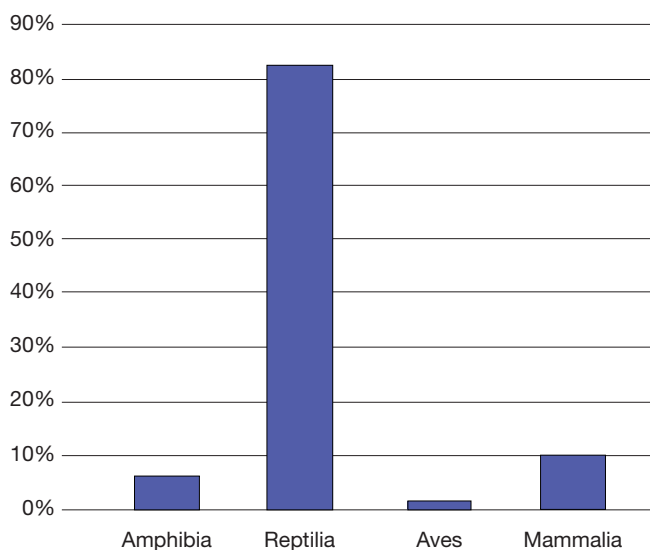


FIG. 10. — Endemism percentage of Tetrapoda species in Iran.

Genus *Jaculus* Erxleben, 1777

Jaculus thaleri Darvish & Hosseini, 2005

Jaculus thaleri Darvish & Hosseini, 2005: 23.

COMMON NAME. — Thaler's Jerboa.

HOLOTYPE. — ZMFUM-992.

TYPE LOCALITY. — Jafarabad, 35°00'N and 58°05'E, Kavir-e-Namak, Kashmar, Khorasan Razavi Province.

DISTRIBUTION. — Known from the type locality and Bandan in the South Khorasan Province (Darvish & Hosseini 2005).

HABITAT. — Poorly known. Semi-desert of the northeast of Iran (Darvish & Hosseini 2005).

IUCN. — Not evaluated.

REFERENCE. — Darvish & Hosseini (2005).

REMARK

This species is closely related to *J. blanfordi* (Murray, 1884) by skull characteristics and the very complex structure of penis. However, the white flag is absent in the tail of *J. thaleri*, and karyotype is different from *J. blanfordi* (Darvish & Hosseini 2005). Michaux & Shenbrot (2017) concluded that the Thaler's Jerboa was an aberrant phenotype of *J. blanfordi* rather than an independent species. Hence, further sampling around the type locality (Kavir-e-Namak) and more integrated taxonomic studies are needed for precise inferences on this issue.

DISCUSSION

According to previous studies, the number of Tetrapoda species in Iran is as following: mammals with about 202 (including both extirpated and introduced species), birds with more than 500, reptiles with about 232 and amphibians with about 22 species (Firouz 2005; Mansoori 2008; Ziaie 2008; Gholamifard 2011; Hosseinzadeh *et al.* 2014; Smid *et al.* 2014; Safaei-Mahroo *et al.* 2015; Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.* 2015; Karami *et al.* 2016).

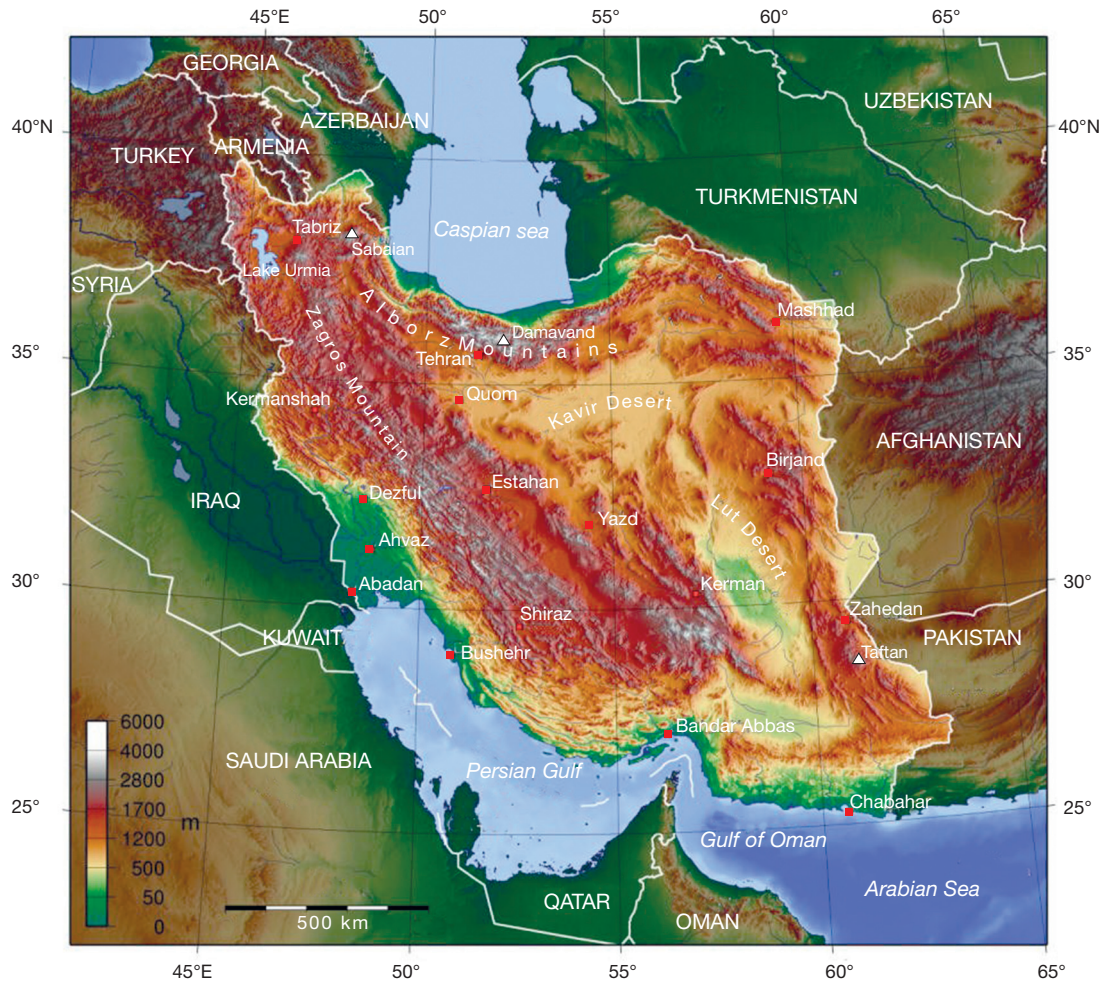


FIG. 11. — Topographic map of Iran (www.worldofmaps.net).

Undoubtedly these numbers are not stable, especially in a group such as reptiles. With discoveries of new species and reductions of several species into one – especially in recent years – these numbers always change. So the percentages in this paper are not so precise. Obtaining the exact number of species in each group requires a separate complete study.

Sixty six out of about 232 reptilian species are endemic in Iran (about 28.45% of total reptilian species in Iran). This rate for amphibians is about 22.73% (five out of about 22 species), for birds about 0.2% (one out of about 500 species) and for mammals about 3.96% (eight out of about 202 species).

A total of 80 endemic species of Tetrapoda inhabit Iran. The highest amount of endemism is attributed to reptilian species with 82.50% (66 out of a total 80 endemic species) including lizards with 67.50% (54 species) and snakes with 15% (12 species). Second to fourth place belong to mammals with eight endemic species (10%), amphibians with five endemic species (6.25%), and aves with one endemic species (1.25%) respectively (Fig. 10).

The distribution ranges of reptiles are usually narrower than birds and mammals, yielding to a high species rich-

ness area. The diverse geographical conditions along with various climate may have generated herpetofaunal biodiversity in Iran. The number of endemic species in the Zagros Mountains, central Iranian Plateau, and the western foothills of the Zagros and Alborz Mountains is considerable. The Zagros Mountain acts as a barrier between the Central Plateau and the Mesopotamian lowlands, and also as a corridor for distribution of northern faunal elements southward (Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.* 2015). The effect of the Zagros Mountains from North West to South East of Iran is prominent in isolation of populations and cause speciation by separating the fauna of central Iranian Plateau from the Mesopotamian plain (Fig. 11). In addition to the contribution of mountain chains, in the borders of Iran, at making an effective barrier for such species, the location of Iran on the boundary of the Palearctic, Afrotropic and Indo-Malay biogeographic realms, supports a special condition for a high degree of endemism in tetrapod species (Hosseinzadeh *et al.* 2014; Smid *et al.* 2014).

Regarding the mammals, Misonne (1959) mentioned two centers of “presumed origin” for endemic mammalian species of Iran. The first one is in northeast of Iran (including

TABLE 1. — The status of endemic species of Tetrapoda in the IUCN with approximate percentage.

	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Near Threatened	Least concern	Data deficient	Not Evaluated
Amphibia	2 (2.50%)	–	1 (1.25%)	2 (2.50%)	–	–
Reptilia	–	1 (1.25%)	–	20 (25%)	10 (12.50%)	35 (43.75%)
Aves	–	–	–	1 (1.25%)	–	–
Mammalia	–	–	–	1 (1.25%)	4 (5%)	3 (3.75%)

Khorasan reaches out to Baluchestan) and the second one is northwest of Iran (including Azarbaijan, Kurdistan and Arasbaran). Of the total endemic mammalian species in Iran two (25%) are present in the first center and another two (25%) in the second center.

Dispersal ability among different taxa is variable. Because of the flying ability in birds they can extend into other areas better than other groups of Tetrapoda. This can explain the low endemicity of birds in Iran. As mentioned in the list, the only endemic bird species of Iran – *Podoces pleskei* – is extending its range toward Iran-Pakistan border, so in future years we may have no endemic species of bird in Iran.

Habitat loss and over-exploitation are the main factors that influence the extinction risk. Because of having the small ranges and narrow niche requirements, reptiles are more sensitive to human activities. Habitat loss, human disturbance along with invasive species and targeted harvesting are the main threat to terrestrial threatened reptiles (Böhm *et al.* 2013).

Among the Iranian endemic species 38 species (47.50% of total endemic species of Tetrapoda, including 35 reptilian and three mammalian species) are not evaluated in the IUCN (Table 1). Almost all of them are recently described species. New mammalian taxa have been described from 2005 onwards (*Jaculus thaleri* Darvish & Hosseini, 2005; *Allactaga toussi* Darvish, Hajjar, Moghadam-Matin, Haddad & Akbaryrad, 2008 and *Scarturus cf. williamsi* Hamidi, Darvish & M. Martin, 2016) and reptilian taxa from 2009 onwards (two species in 2009, one species in 2010, 11 species in 2011, two species in 2012, six species in 2013, two species in 2014, one species in 2015, three species in 2016, six species in 2017 and one species in 2018).

Among endemic Tetrapoda for Iran, 11 new species were described in 2016, 2017 and 2018 (Gholamifard *et al.* 2016; Hamidi *et al.* 2016; Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.* 2016; Safaei-Mahroo *et al.* 2016; Akbarpour *et al.* 2017; Faizi *et al.* 2017; Fathinia *et al.* 2017; Nazarov *et al.* 2017; Torki 2017a, b; Rounaghi *et al.* 2018).

The distribution pattern of indicator taxa, such as birds, is used for estimation of biodiversity value. So to what extent this assessment is successful, depends on the degree of congruence between the distribution pattern of these indicator taxa and other taxon. Because of this amphibian and reptiles are greatly overlooked. Reptiles are poorly-represented on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Böhm *et al.* 2013).

Considering the high diversity of reptiles in Iran and the lack of submitted data in the IUCN in one hand and the high amount of new described species of this group in com-

parison to other taxa on the other hand, it will be necessary to perform a more comprehensive study about this group especially the endemic species and assessing their conservation status in the IUCN. The Zagros region involves a high number of endemics among reptiles and as Rounaghi *et al.* (2018) stated more attention and investigation are needed to survey the fauna in this area.

Endemic species are national resources of a country and unfortunately there is not even a simple list of endemic fauna of Iran. More attempts are required to broaden our knowledge about the endemic species in this country.

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