



On the composition of the type series of the Kashgar Racerunner, *Eremias buechneri* Bedriaga, 1907 (Sauria, Lacertidae)

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ABSTRACT

The Kashgar Racerunner *Eremias buechneri* Bedriaga, 1907 is a member of the taxonomically most complicated group, i.e. *E. multiocellata* – *E. przewalskii* complex, together with about a dozen of other species inhabiting predominantly arid landscapes of Central Asia. *Eremias buechneri* is one of the poorly studied representatives of this diverse group of species. This species was described in 1907 by Jakob von Bedriaga based on the study of specimens collected in Central Asia by N.M. Przewalsky and M.W. Pewzow. This species is practically not present in the collections of museums around the world and is known from a limited number of specimens. We clarify the composition of the type series used in the original description of this species in accordance with article 72.4.1 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature and we propose to consider as a type series the specimens mentioned by the author in his description of 1907, with catalogue numbers in the collection of the Zoological Museum (since 1931, the Zoological Institute) clarified from the results of the N.M. Przewalsky expedition reported by Bedriaga (1912) and thus to expand the type series to 59 specimens (1 lectotype and 58 paralectotypes). Of these, four paralectotypes are lost (ZISP 7264.9, 7279.6, 7089.4 and 7264.4) and four specimens are in very poor condition, almost destroyed (ZISP 8286.1–4). Thus, the actual number of specimens currently stored at the Zoological Institute is 55. The paratype *E. buechneri* ZISP 9131 has been genotyped. Molecular genetic identification of specimens in the type series from different parts of the range appears promising as a future avenue of research.

Key words: Central Asia, composition of type series, *Eremias buechneri*, Lacertidae, type specimens

К вопросу о составе типовой серии кашгарской ящурки *Eremias buechneri* Bedriaga, 1907 (Sauria, Lacertidae)

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РЕЗЮМЕ

Кашгарская ящурка *Eremias buechneri* Bedriaga, 1907 относится к сложному в таксономическом отношении комплексу *E. multiocellata* – *E. przewalskii* вместе с десятком других видов, населяющих преимущественно аридные ландшафты Средней Азии. *Eremias buechneri* – один из самых малоизученных

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представителей этой разнообразной группы видов. Этот вид был описан в 1907 г. Яковом Бедрягой на основании изучения коллекций, собранных в Центральной Азии Н.М. Пржевальским и М.В. Певцовым. Этот вид практически не представлен в коллекциях музеев мира и известен по ограниченному количеству экземпляров. На основании изучения дневников путешественников, музейных каталогов и маршрутов центральноазиатских экспедиций мы уточнили состав типовой серии, упомянутой в первоначальном описании этого вида. В соответствии со статьей 72.4.1 Международного кодекса зоологической номенклатуры предлагаем рассматривать в качестве типовой серии экземпляры, упомянутые автором описания в 1907 г., с уточнением инвентаризационных номеров в коллекции Зоологического музея (с 1931 г. Зоологический институт) по результатам изучения сборов из экспедиций Н.М. Пржевальского: 1 лектотип и 58 паралектотипов. Из этой серии четыре паралектотипа утрачены (ZISP 7264.9, 7279.6, 7089.4 и 7264.4) и четыре находятся в очень плохом состоянии (ZISP 8286.1–4). Таким образом, реальное количество экземпляров, хранящихся в настоящее время в Зоологическом институте, составляет 55, причём один паратип (ZISP 9131) был генотипирован. Для будущих исследований перспективна молекулярная идентификация экземпляров типовой серии.

Ключевые слова: Центральная Азия, состав типовой серии, *Eremias buechneri*, Lacertidae, типовые экземпляры

INTRODUCTION

The lacertid genus *Eremias* includes 40 species of predominantly arid steppe and desert lizards distributed from Northern China, Korea, central and southwestern Asia to southeastern Europe. The Kashgar Racerunner, *E. buechneri* Bedriaga, 1907, is a member of the taxonomically most complicated group, i.e. *E. multiocellata* – *E. przewalskii* complex together with about a dozen of other species inhabiting predominantly arid landscapes of Central Asia. *Eremias buechneri* is one of the poorly studied representatives of this diverse group of species. This species is practically not present in the collections of museums around the world and is known from a limited number of specimens. In this paper, we clarify the composition of the type series used in the original description of this species and provide a description of all 59 type specimens stored in the collection of the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg.

The Kashgar Racerunner *E. buechneri* was described in 1907 by Jakob von Bedriaga based on the study of specimens collected in Central Asia by N.M. Przewalsky and M.W. Pewzow (Bedriaga 1907; Szczerbak 1974) and named after Eugen A. Büchner (1861–1913), a Russian ornithologist of German descent who specialized in mammals and birds (Raykov 1966). The description was published in the Yearbook of the Zoological Museum No. 3/4 for 1905, although the actual date of publication of the second part of volume X (No. 3/4) was January 1907 (Asanovich et al. 2007).

In the description of the species, J. Bedriaga does not provide any specific information about the studied specimens and does not select type specimens. The author provides the following information on the specimens of the newly described taxon and its distribution: “Meines Erachtens ist *E. buechneri* als eine ostturkestanische Art anzusprechen, welche ihre eigentliche Heimat in den Gegenden am nördlichen Rande des Kuenlün und Altyn-Tagh, einem Ausläufer des Kuenlüns, hat und von da sich nordwärts etwa bis Yarkand und ostwärts bis in die Provinz Zaidam ausbreitet. Es wäre interessant zu erfahren, wie weit sie in Zaidam in östlicher Richtung fordringt. – Herr W. Roborowski erbeutete zwei Exemplare am Flusse Tolan-chodscha in der Kaschgarei.” [In my opinion, *E. buechneri* can be identified as an East Turkestan species, having its main range in the areas on the northern outskirts of the Kunlun and Altyn Tagh, a tributary of the Kunlun, and from there extending north to about Yarkand and east to the province of Tsaidam. It would be interesting to know how far it goes east to Tsaidam. – Mr. W. Roborowsky caught two specimens on the Tolan-Khoja River in Kashgaria.] The last sentence is an indirect reference to those two specimens, on which the description was based. However, here J. Bedriaga writes: “Herren Przewalsky, Pewzow, Grum-Grzimailo und Roborowsky auf ihren Reisen im chinesischen Turkestan dieselben Striche berührten, die von den Mitgliedern der Yarkand – Expedition durchwandert worden sind, und von dort ungefähr 50 Exemplare einer *Eremias* mitbrachten.” [Mrs. Przewalsky, Pewzow,



Fig. 1. Lectotype of *Eremias buechneri* (ZISP 7087).

Grum-Grzmailo and Roborowsky, during their travels in the Chinese Turkestan, visited the same sites, which were traversed by the members of the Yarkand expedition, and from there brought about 50 specimens of *Eremias*.] From the last phrase, it becomes clear that some of the specimens collected by the Przewalsky, Pewzow, Grum-Grzmailo and Roborowsky expeditions should also belong to the newly described taxon. Later, J. Bedriaga (1912), while describing the results of N.M. Przewalsky expeditions, provided a list of 33 specimens of *E. buechneri* available at that time in the collection of the Zoological Museum (ZISP 7087, 7088, 7089, 7264, 7265, 7267, 7270, 7279).

N.N. Szczerbak, in his fundamental revision of *Eremias* of the Palearctic (Szczerbak 1974, p. 49), pointed out that the author of the description did not assign the holotype, and, referring to the list of specimens given in 1912, considered them as a type series and identified the first specimen in order in the list as

a lectotype, ZISP 7087 (Fig. 1), collected in August 1885 in the Dol district, Sampula oasis, Southern Kashgaria by N.M. Przewalsky. However, the specimens collected by M.W. Pewzow and W.I. Roborowsky and mentioned (without any catalog numbers) in the original description (Bedriaga 1907) remained unaccounted by Szczerbak. The G.E. Grum-Grzmailo's collection of *E. buechneri* mentioned by Bedriaga (1907) is unknown to us; the author probably made this assumption without referring to any museum specimens.

Thus, in accordance with article 72.4.1 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 2012), we propose to consider as a type series the specimens mentioned by the author in his description of 1907, with catalogue numbers in the collection of the Zoological Museum (since 1931, the Zoological Institute) clarified from the results of the N.M. Przewalsky expedition reported by Bedriaga (1912) and thus to expand the type series to 59 specimens.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

We examined all the historical specimens of *E. buechneri* stored in the historical collection of the Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences (ZISP) (Table 1). They were labeled according to the geography of the 19th century with 1886–1891 as the dates of accept in the collections of the Zoological Museum.

In the diaries and descriptions of the travels of Przewalsky (1883, 1888) and Pewzow (1895), we studied all the brief mentions of records of amphibians and reptiles, as well as the dates for some camps and the duration of stay at the route points. We used this information to clarify the dates and localities of the records of candidate specimens in the type series. Having studied the routes and descriptions of these expeditions, we were able to clarify the collection dates and identify the collection localities relatively accurately.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Collection dates according to the expedition routes. In his description of the fourth journey through Central Asia in 1884–1885, N.M. Przewalsky (1888) provides some references to the records of reptiles, including *Eremias*. At that time, the Kashgar Racerunner had not yet been described, and Przewalsky, having some doubts about the identification, mentioned it under different species names – *Eremias intermedia* or *Eremias velox*. In the second part of his expedition, Przewalsky crossed the Burkhan-Buddha Ridge and left the northern outskirts of the ridge until August 18, 1884, spending the second half of the month in the Tsaidam basin.

In Nomokhun-gol “... of the reptiles, only one species of lizard was found here, *Phrynocephalus Roborowskii* n. sp., which is common to the entire southern Tsaidam...” [p. 223]. This means that the collections in Tsaidam were sampled in the period from August 18 to August 31, 1884. Staying during the winter in the north-west of Tsaidam and at Lob-Nor Lake on April 29, 1885, the expedition set out in the direction of the Russky Mountain Range on April 29, 1885, reaching the village of Cherchen approximately on April 30 [p. 373–374] and Kara-Muran on May 1. Later they spent the night at Suget-bulak [p. 383] and reached Niya oasis on May 17 [p. 393].

Moving from the Suget spring to the oasis of Niya, the Przewalsky expedition stayed there for about two

more nights and left Suget, probably on May 15. Thus, Przewalsky travelled between Achan and Suget from April 30 to May 15 (ZISP 7264–7265).

“... of the amphibians, only the toad (*Bufo viridis*) was found in Niya, which is quite common here; of the reptiles, five species of lizards: *Eremias intermedia?* *Eremias Pylzowi*, *Phrynocephalus axillaris*, *Stellio Stoliczkanus*, *Teratoscincus Przewalskii*; snakes, as they say, do not live here at all...”. The expedition arrived to Niya oasis on May 17 and stayed there until May 24, 1885. “We spent a whole week at Niya Oasis”. We conclude that specimens from Niya were apparently collected during this period (ZISP 7267).

Przewalsky arrived in Keria in June 1885: “...Of the reptiles, three species of lizards were found at the oasis – *Phrynocephalus Roborowskii* n. sp., *Eremias Pylzowi*, *Eremias velox?* We spent six days in Keria...”. The expedition went from Yasulun to Keria on June 1, and on June 16 it has already left Achan. Thus, at Keria oasis, the expedition of N.M. Przewalsky worked between June 1 and 16, 1885 (ZISP 7089).

The expedition was on the Keria mountain ridge at least from the mid-June to the end of July “...from June 29 to July 24 of our stay in the high-elevated region of the Keria ridge...”. “...Of the reptiles in those foothills, only two species of lizards were found – *Phrynocephalus Roborowskii* n. sp., *Eremias intermedium*. We have not encountered any snakes or amphibians here at all”. Thus, lizards were collected in the mountains of Keria between July 17 and July 31, 1885 (ZISP 7270).

Przewalsky stayed at Sampula oasis in August, and from the end of August to September 7 he observed the bird migration in Khotan: “...in September, which we spent until September 7 at Khotan oasis...” [p. 450] and “The Yurun-Kash River, which separates the oasis of the same name from Khotan or Ilcha proper and which we now (August 29) had to cross...” [p. 454]. Hence, specimen ZISP 7087 (Fig. 1) was sampled in August 1885. In the area of the Khotan River “... Among reptiles two species of lizards (*Phrynocephalus axillaris*, *Eremias velox?*) and one species of snake (*Tropidonotus hydrus*) were found” [p. 471]. On October 7, the expedition had already reached the bank of the Tarim River [p. 481], having thus spent most of September on the Khotan River (Khotan Darya) (ZISP 7279).

N.M. Przewalsky visited Tsaidam three times: the first time in November 1872 and February 1873, the second in August 1879 and January-February 1880

Table 1. Type series of the Kashgar Racerunner, *Eremias buechneri* Bedriaga, 1907 stored at the Zoological Institute RAS, St. Petersburg. *Abbreviations:* ad – adult; juv – juvenile; sad – subadult

ZISP catalogue number	age/sex	condition	original label in ZISP catalogue (in Latin)	original label (in English)	coordinates in Pewzow (1895)	locality current name and coordinates	collector	collection old style date	receipt date
7087	ad ♂	good	Oasis Dol et Sampula	Oasis Dol and Sampula	–	China, Xinjiang, between Hotan and Luopu (37.07 N 80.08 E)	Przewalsky	08.1885	1886
7088.1	ad ♂	good	Oasis Hotan	Oasis Khotan	37° 7.4' N 79° 53.8' E	China, Xinjiang, Hotan (37.12 N 79.90 E)	Przewalsky	29.08–7.09.1885	1886
7088.2	ad ♂	good							
7088.3	ad ♀	good							
7088.4	juv	good							
7088.5	juv	good							
7089.1	ad ♂	good	Oasis Keria	Oasis Keria	36° 52.2' N 81° 40.8' E	Yutian (Keriy), Hotan Prefecture, Xinjiang, China (36.87 N, 81.68 E)	Przewalsky	1–16.06.1885	1886
7089.2	ad ♂	good							
7089.3	ad ♀	good							
7089.4	–	lost							
7264.1	ad ♂	good	Int. Atschan et Ssutschet	between Achan and Suget	37° 19.2' N 85° 24.8' E (Achan)	China, Hotan, between Aqqan (37.32 N 85.41 E) and Pishka (36.49 N 82.05 E)	Przewalsky	30.04–15.05. 1885	1886
7264.2	ad ♀	good							
7264.3	ad ♂	good							
7264.4	–	lost							
7264.5	sad	good							
7264.6	sad	good							
7264.7	sad	relatively good							
7264.8	juv	relatively good							
7264.9	–	lost							
7265.1	ad ♂	good	Int. Atschan et Ssutschet	between Achan and Suget	37° 19.2' N 85° 24.8' E (Achan)	China, Hotan, between Aqqan (37.32 N 85.41 E) and Pishka (36.49 N 82.05 E)	Przewalsky	30.04–15.05. 1885	1886
7265.2	sad ♂	good							
7265.3	sad ♀	good							
7267.1	ad ♀	relatively good	Oasis Niya	Oasis Niya	37° 4.6' N 82° 39.7' E	China, Xinjiang, Niya (37.08 N 82.66 E)	Przewalsky	17–24.05.1885	1886
7267.2	ad ♂	relatively good							
7267.3	sad	relatively good							
7267.4	sad	relatively good							
7270.1	ad ♂	bad	Mont. Keria	Mount Keria	–	China, Xinjiang, Hotan, Yutian (36.36 N 81.44 E)	Przewalsky	17.06–31.07.1885	1886
7270.2	ad ♂	bad							
7270.3	ad ♀	bad							
7270.4	ad ♀	bad							
7270.5	sad	bad							
7270.6	–	lost							
7279	ad ♀	good	Chotanskaja	Khotanskaya	–	China, Xinjiang, Hetian, Hotan River (38.08 N 80.56 E)	Przewalsky	29.08–7.09.1885	1886

Table 1. Continued from the previous page

ZISP catalogue number	age/sex	condition	original label in ZISP catalogue (in Latin)	original label (in English)	coordinates in Pewzow (1895)	locality current name and coordinates	collector	collection old style date	receipt date
8245	ad ♀	relatively good	Chotan	Khotan	37° 7.4' N 79° 53.8' E	China, Xinjiang, Hetian	Pewzow	22–28.09.1889	1891
8253.1	ad ♂	relatively good	Inter Pjalma et Tschira	between Pjalma and Chira	37° 17.7' N 79° 5.0' E	China, Xinjiang, between Qjaha (37.30 N 79.08 E) and Cele (36.98 N 80.74 E)	Pewzow	20.09–5.10.1889	1891
8253.2	ad ♀	relatively good			(Pjalma)				
8253.3	juv	relatively good			36° 58.6' N 80° 44.2' E (Chira)				
8254	ad ♀	good	Inter Pjalma et Tschira	between Pjalma and Chira	37° 17.7' N 79° 5.0' E (Pjalma) 36° 58.6' N 80° 44.2' E (Chira)	China, Xinjiang, between Qjaha (37.30 N 79.08 E) and Cele (36.98 N 80.74 E)	Pewzow	20.09–5.10.1889	1891
8261.1	ad ♂	relatively good	Tokus-Daban	Tokuz-Davan	–	China, Xinjiang, Qiemo, Tokuz-Davan mt. (37.50 N 85.88 E)	Pewzow	26.07–16.08.1890	1891
8261.2	ad ♂	relatively good							
8261.3	ad ♀	relatively good							
8261.4	sad ♀	relatively good							
8266	sad ♂	relatively good	Kara-sai	Kara-say	36° 46.9' N 83° 48.1' E	China, Xinjiang, Qiemo, Kalasayicun (36.78 N 83.80 E)	Pewzow	3.05–15.06.1890	1891
8269	sad ♀	relatively good	Nija-Darja inf.	tributary of Niya Darya	–	China, Xinjiang, Niya river (37.36 N 82.81 E)	Pewzow	23.03–24.04.1890	1891
8280.1	ad ♂	good	Inter Kok-jar et Pjalma	between Kok-jar and Pjalma	37° 17.7' N 79° 5.0' E (Pjalma)	China, Xinjiang, between Kokyar (37.39 N 77.18 E) and Qjaha (37.30 N 79.08 E)	Pewzow	16.07–19.09.1889	1891
8280.2	sad ♂	good							
8280.3	ad ♀	good							
8286.1	ad	very bad	Oasis Nija	Oasis Niya	37° 4.6' N 82° 39.7' E	China, Xinjiang, Niya (37.08 N 82.66 E)	Pewzow	1–24.04.1890	1891
8286.2	ad	very bad							
8286.3	ad	very bad							
8286.4	ad	very bad							
8300.1	ad ♂	good	Inter Jarkand et Tochtachun	between Yarkant and Tokhtakhon	38° 24.2' N 77° 15.6' E (Yarkant) 37° 6.0' N 77° 2.3' E (Tokhtakhon)	China, Xinjiang, between Shache (38.40 N 77.26 E) and Take Tuohong (37.10 N 77.04 E)	Pewzow	8–18.07.1889	1891
8300.2	ad ♀	good							
8300.3	ad ♀	relatively good							
8300.4	juv	bad							
8300.5	juv	bad							
8304	juv	bad	Tochtachun	Tokhtakhon	37° 6.0' N 77° 2.3' E	China, Xinjiang, Take Tuohong (37.10 N 77.04 E)	Pewzow	18.07–1.09.1889	1891
9131.1	ad ♀	good	Kaschgaria	Kashgaria	37° 14.0' N 83° 14.1' E	China, Xinjiang, Tolan-Chodzha river (37.23 N 83.24 E)	Roborowsky	7.05–30.06.1890	1890
9131.2	sad ♀	good							



Fig. 2. Paralectotypes of *Eremias buechneri* (ZISP 9131.1–2).

[p. 151], the third time in 1884. Moreover, N.M. Przewalsky visited northern Tsaidam only during his third expedition to Central Asia (Przewalsky 1883). We conclude that racerunners from northern Tsaidam could be collected only in August 1879 (ZISP 7070). Later, the specimens from Tsaidam were identified as *Eremias multiocellata*, thus the indication of the record of *E. buechneri* in Tsaidam (Bedriaga 1907) was erroneous.

After the death of N.M. Przewalsky in November 1888, M.W. Pewzow in 1889–1890 conducted the third Tibetan expedition to Central Asia, visiting East Turkestan, Kun-Lun, the Tibetan Plateau and Dzungaria (Magidovich 1957). Zoological collections sampled by the expedition and transferred to the Museum of the Imperial Academy of Sciences, contained up to 80 specimens of amphibians and reptiles (Pewzow 1895). We succeeded at finding some information on animal records in the text: in the Yarkend-Darya valley “...we observed a fight between two water snakes (*Tropidonotus hydrus*)...” [p. 73]. The expedition left Yarkand on July 8, and on July 11 passed the city of Kargalyk, where “...in the pools of the Tash-Bulak River we caught plenty of *Schizothorax* and *Salvelinus* having collected two water snakes there...” [p. 92]. Two days before arriving to the Tokhtakhon, the expedition stayed in the village of Kok-jar. Afterwards, having arrived in the area of Tokhta-khon, “...we stayed there for almost a month and a half from

July 18 to September 1” [p. 95], where the specimen from Tokhtakhon (ZISP 8304) was collected.

Three days before arriving to Khotan, the expedition spent a day in the village of Pialma. Thus, between July 16 and September 19, 1889, there is a part of the route “Inter Kok-jar et Pialma” (ZISP 8280). From September 22 to September 28, 1889, the expedition worked in Khotan (ZISP 8244–8246). The day earlier, having left the village of Chira, the expedition passed the village of Damaku on October 6 [p. 125]. This means that the part of the route “between Pialma and Chira” took place between September 20 and October 5, 1889 (ZISP 8253–8254). The expedition visited Kara-say twice – on October 30 and November 10, before arriving to Niya. The expedition arrived to Niya oasis on November 17 and spent there the entire winter of 1889–1890.

M.W. Pewzow traveled north along the Niya Darya to Imam-Jafar-Sadiq Mazar [p. 197] from March 23 to March 31; the expedition finally left Niya on April 24, passing along the river for another 5 miles. Racerunners were probably collected somewhere in this interval (ZISP 8269). Pewzow arrived to Kara-say on May 3 and stayed there until June 15, during which time the racerunners were probably collected (ZISP 8266). This expedition remained in Kara-say again from July 1 to July 10 [p. 239–241]. Moving east from Kara-say, Pewzow reached with the expedition the Achan village at the

foot of the Tokuz-Davan ridge, where, after spending there two days, he moved to the Cherchen Darya on July 26. On August 16, 1890 the expedition split into two groups and one group, together with Pewzow moved to the Muzluk River [p. 264]. It is highly likely that racerunners were sampled at the foothills of Tokuz-Davan (ZISP 8261).

W.I. Roborowsky, who traveled with M.W. Pewzow in 1889–1890, repeatedly made independent trips and traveled across Kun-Lun in the spring of 1890. From Kara-say W.I. Roborowsky traveled from 7 to 18 May and from 27 May to the end of June (Pewzow 1895). On these dates, two specimens of Kashgar racerunner ZISP 8280.1-2 (Fig. 2) were probably collected, which were used as the basis for the description of this species by J. Bedriaga.

Species distribution and the number of type specimens

According to the available data from the collection (ZISP) and literature (Eremchenko and Panfilov 1999), the Kashgar racerunner inhabits the southern part of the Takla-Makan desert in Xinjiang, China in the basins of the Khotan, Yarungkax, Qarqan and other rivers flowing from the northern macroslope of the Kun-Lun ridge system. In the west of the range, it borders *Eremias yarkandensis* Blanford, 1875 along the Yarkand River valley and in the east of the range, *E. multiocellata* Günther, 1872. In the north, its range borders other representatives of the genus by the sands of the central Takla-Makan, and in the south by the Kun-Lun mountain system. According to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, article 76.2 (ICZN 2012), the type territory (*terra typica restricta*) is restricted to “Dol county, Sampula oasis, South Kashgaria” on the base of lectotype designation (Szczerbak 1974).

Almost all specimens of *E. buechneri* collected by M.N. Przewalsky, M.W. Pewzow and W.I. Roborowsky in southern Xinjiang were received by the Zoological Museum from 1880 to 1891 and stored in the herpetological collection of the Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences (Table 1). Bedriaga (1907) discussed the distribution of the species eastward to Tsaidam (northern Qinghai). However, in his publication of 1912, Bedriaga does not mention already the specimens from Tsaidam referring to them as *E. multiocellata* (Bedriaga 1907). Three specimens collected by N.M. Przewalsky with labels «Zaidam sept.» (ZISP 7070) and «Zaidam» (ZISP 7076.1-2)

are identified as *E. multiocellata* based on their morphological characters and do not belong to the type series of *E. buechneri*. Also, Bedriaga does not mention two specimens of *Eremias buechneri* collected by M.W. Pewzow in Khotan on September 22–28, 1889. They are an adult male (ZISP 8244) and a juvenile specimen (ZISP 8246), which should also be excluded from the type series.

Thus, the type series includes all specimens of the Kashgar racerunner indicated by Bedriaga in his publications of 1907 and 1912. The total number of specimens is 59 (1 lectotype and 58 paralectotypes) (Table 1). Of these, four paralectotypes are lost (ZISP 7264.9, 7279.6, 7089.4 and 7264.4) and four specimens are in very poor condition, almost destroyed (ZISP 8286.1–4). Thus, the actual number of specimens currently stored at the Zoological Institute is 55.

The type series is quite heterogeneous in terms of morphological characters: it includes specimens of different colors and habitus from 15 localities from a vast territory stretching over 900 km. Molecular genetic identification of specimens in the type series from different parts of the range appears promising as a future avenue of research. The effectiveness of this approach has already been demonstrated by recent interesting results on *E. kokshaaliensis* Eremchenko et Panfilov, 1999 (Orlova et al. 2022), for which the paratype of *E. buechneri* (ZISP 9131) has also been genotyped. Preliminary data on genetic differences between populations of *E. buechneri* have been obtained in a series of studies on Central Asian *Eremias* by Orlova et al. (2017, 2022).

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