

# A record of *Spalerosophis diadema* (Reptilia: Colubridae) from Adiyaman province, Turkey

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**Abstract:** *Spalerosophis diadema cliffordi* (Schlegel, 1837) is recorded from a third Turkish locality (near Samsat, Adiyaman province; now flooded by the Atatürk Euphrates Dam). The new record extends the known distribution some 80 km to the north into the Toros Mountain chain. Morphologically the specimen agrees well with two other previously described specimens from Turkey.

**Kurzfassung:** *Spalerosophis diadema cliffordi* (Schlegel, 1837) wird von einer dritten Fundstelle in der Türkei gemeldet (nahe Samsat, Provinz Adiyaman; heute durch den Atatürk-Stausee überflutet). Der Nachweis erweitert die bekannte Verbreitung der Art um etwa 80 km nach Norden in das Taurus-Gebirge. Das Exemplar stimmt morphologisch gut mit den beiden bisher aus der Türkei beschriebenen Stücken überein.

**Key words:** Turkey, Middle East, *Spalerosophis diadema cliffordi*, distribution.

## Introduction

The colubrid snake *Spalerosophis cliffordi* (Schlegel, 1837) inhabits a large area, extending from the Moroccan Atlantic coast across Saharan North Africa and Arabia to southern central Asia and northern India (MARX 1959, GASPERETTI 1988). It is a true eremic species ("eremiale Art mit saharo-sindischer Verbreitung": DE LATTIN 1967) which was formerly considered to reach Turkish territory only on a narrow strip along the Syrian border (BAŞOĞLU & BARAN 1980). It was formerly known only from two localities in Turkey: the environs of Birecik (BÖHME 1973) and the Ceylanpınar area (EISELT 1970, BARAN 1982). The herpetological collection of the Zoologische Staatssammlung (Munich) houses a specimen which originates from a third, more northern locality in Adiyaman province. Since only sparse information is available on this rare Turkish snake, the new record is briefly presented here.

**Abbreviations:** ZDEU = Zooloji Anabilim Dalı, Ege Üniversitesi, Bornova-İzmir (Turkey); ZFMK = Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn (Germany); ZSM = Zoologische Staatssammlung München (Germany).