

# Additional specimens of the Persian Mountain Salamander, *Batrachuperus persicus*, from Iran (Amphibia: Hynobiidae)

by Haji Gholi Kami

**Abstract:** The Persian Mountain Salamander, *Batrachuperus persicus*, was described in 1970 on the basis of larvae collected in the Gilan province of Iran. Adult specimens have now been collected for the first time. They are described together with their habitats. The new localities show that the species has a considerably wider range than hitherto known.

**Kurzfassung:** Der Persische Bergsalamander, *Batrachuperus persicus*, war 1970 aufgrund von Larven beschrieben worden, die in der iranischen Gilan-Provinz gesammelt worden waren. Hier wurden nun erstmals Alttiere gesammelt, die zusammen mit den von ihnen bewohnten Lebensräumen beschrieben werden. Die neuen Fundorte zeigen, daß die Art ein erheblich größeres Verbreitungsareal hat als bisher bekannt.

**Key words:** Persian Mountain Salamander, *Batrachuperus persicus*, Iran, Middle East.

## Introduction

In 1968, H. M. STEINER collected five salamander larvae near Asalem in the Talesh Mountains in the province of Gilan, Iran. Together with J. EISELT, he described this salamander as new to science, *Batrachuperus persicus* Eiselt & Steiner, 1970. Subsequently, SCHMIDTLER & SCHMIDTLER collected some larvae in Weyser, south-east of Chalus, in the Mazandaran province, Iran, in 1970. These were kept in captivity for some time, and the authors provided a description of the juvenile animal. New distribution records were published by KAMI & VAKILPOURE (1996).

During a herpetological excursion to Azarbaijan which was arranged by the Research Department of the Natural History Museum of Iran in 1991, adult specimens of the Persian Mountain Salamander were found in Ardabil province. Another adult specimen which was collected in Gilan province in 1990 was obtained by the museum. This paper describes the adult on the basis of these specimens, and gives further information on distribution and habitat.

## Material

MMTT 2120: Yeilagh-e-Sarasi, approx. 45 km south-east of Khalkhal, Delmadeh (Daylamdeh) village, 37°36'N, 48°31'E, 1500 m above sea level, 1 August, 1991, coll. M. KHOSHCHIN. –