

On a new record of the Persian Skink, *Ophiomorus persicus*, in Iran

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Abstract: An adult specimen of the Persian Skink (*Ophiomorus persicus*) was collected in the south-southwest of Kerman province on 11 August 1997. This is one of the first records of the species and the new locality is situated about 450 km east of the type locality. Information on habitat, measurements and colouration is given. This record indicates a wider distribution of *O. persicus* in Iran than previously thought.

Kurzfassung: Im Süd-Südwesten der Provinz Kerman im Iran wurde am 11. August 1997 ein Altier des Persischen Skinks (*Ophiomorus persicus*) gesammelt. Dies stellt einen der ersten Nachweise der Art dar, und der neue Fundort liegt etwa 450 km östlich des Typusfundortes. Dies deutet eine erheblich größere Verbreitung der Art an als bisher vermutet.

Key words: *Ophiomorus persicus*, Iran, Middle East, zoogeography.

Introduction

The Persian Skink *Ophiomorus persicus* was originally described from “Kurdistan” by STEINDACHNER (1867), but he did not give a precise locality. ANDERSON & LEVITON (1966) were the first who gave a precise locality: they reported the species from Fars province in Iran, five kilometres south-east of Pol-e Abgineh (approx. 29°33'N, 51°45'E). A third record was by FRYNTA et al. (1997) again in Fars province, 10 km east of Sivand, at 1700 m a.s.l. (30°05'N, 52°55'E). No additional material has become available until now. During a preliminary ecological study of the lizards of the Kerman province in 1997, one specimen of *Ophiomorus persicus* was collected. As there are no more detailed data on distribution, intraspecific variability and ecology of the species, a short description of the specimen and some ecological data are given here.

Material

One adult ♂, collected 20 km east of Khabr (28°48'N, 56°32'E) in the Khabr va Ruchoun Protected Area in the south-southwest of the Kerman province of Iran, on 11 August 1977. This specimen has been deposited in the collection of the Zoology Museum of Gorgan University (inventory number: ZMGU 223).