

# Notable herpetological records from Central and Southern Jordan

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**Abstract:** Notable herpetofaunal data from the Al Mudawwarah region of South Jordan are listed. They include the second record of the “*kennedyi*” form of *Lytorhynchus diadema*.

**Kurzfassung:** Es werden bemerkenswerte herpetologische Nachweise aus der Al Mudawwarah-Region in Süd-Jordanien mitgeteilt, u.a. der zweite Nachweis der Form „*kennedyi*“ von *Lytorhynchus diadema*.

**Key words:** Herpetofauna, reptiles, Jordan, Middle East.

## Introduction

Although the herpetofauna of Jordan has been the focus of considerable attention and many faunistic papers have been published recently (AL-ORAN et al. 1998, AMR et al. 1994, ARNOLD 1980, DISI 1991, DISI & AMR 1998, MODRÝ et al. 1999, SINDACO et al. 1995, WERNER 1998, WITTENBERG 1992), our knowledge of the occurrence and distribution patterns in the territory of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is still far from complete for many species. In this report, I summarise and discuss some remarkable herpetofaunal records obtained during field research in Central and Southern Jordan in the last three years.

**Collection locations:** Al Mudawwarah: 29°19'N, 36°02'E; Batn al Ghul: 31°16'N, 35°42'E; Disah: 29°34'N, 35°35'E; Ma'an: 30°12'N, 35°44'E; Qasr al Hallabat: 32°04'N, 36°22'E; Azraq: 31°53'N, 36°49'E; Mahattat Hattiyah: 29°43'N, 35°54'E; Ash Shidiyah: 29°56'N, 35°56'E.

## Species accounts and comments

### Gekkonidae

#### *Stenodactylus doriae* (Blanford, 1874)

DISI & AMR (1998) summarised the distribution of *S. doriae* in Jordan. Numerous specimens collected in Al Mudawwarah during recent research extend the known range in Jordan. Generally, *S. doriae* is a typical psammophilous species inhabiting soft sand dunes in the Arabian Peninsula. Its occurrence in Al Mudawwarah correlates with the presence of other herpetofaunal elements with similar ecological requirements. Specimens from this locality are larger than those collected in other Jordanian localities; the largest ♀ from Al Mudawwarah reached 81 mm (SVL), which is close to the maximum (83) given by ARNOLD (1980) for this species.