

Additional information on the distribution and morphology of *Coluber* (s. l.) *andreas* (Werner, 1917) (Reptilia: Colubridae) from Iran

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Abstract. A review of the reptile collection of the National Museum of Natural History in Tehran (MMTT) revealed one new specimen of the little-known *Coluber* (s. l.) *andreas*. This specimen was collected in the Bushehr Province in south-western Iran. Two more specimens were found in Razi University Zoological Museum (RUZM), Kermanshah. A detailed description of these specimens is given and it is shown that sexual dimorphism in the ventral scale rows is low.

Kurzfassung. Bei der Durchsicht der Reptiliensammlung des National Museum of Natural History in Teheran (MMTT) wurde ein neues Exemplar der wenig bekannten Schlange *Coluber* (s. l.) *andreas* gefunden. Dieses Exemplar wurde in der Bushehr-Provinz in Südwest-Iran gesammelt. Zwei weitere Exemplare wurden im Zoologischen Museum der Razi Universität in Kermanshah (RUZM) gefunden. Es wird eine detaillierte Beschreibung des Materials gegeben und es kann gezeigt werden, dass in bezug auf die ventrale Beschuppung der Sexualdimorphismus relativ gering ausgeprägt ist.

Key words. Colubridae, *Coluber* (s. l.) *andreas*, distribution, morphology, new locality, Iran, Middle East.

Introduction

The Andreas' Racer, *Coluber* (s. l.) *andreas* (Werner, 1917), originally described by WERNER (1917) as *Zamenis andreana*, is a poorly known species from the southern Zagros Mountains, southwestern Iran (SCHÄTTI 2001), and the two checklists of the herpetofauna of Iran (ANDERSON 1963, SCHLEICH 1977) do not list the species at all. LATIFI (1991), in his book about the snakes of Iran, also did not list this species due to insufficient data (LATIFI, pers. comm.).

SCHÄTTI (2001) lists two localities and discusses the morphology of five specimens of *Coluber* (s. l.) *andreas*, based on the examination of museum material from Iran. In the present study, we report on three museum specimens of this species and discuss the localities noted by SCHÄTTI as well as one new locality in southwestern Iran.

Material

Three museum specimens of *Coluber* (s. l.) *andreas* were examined in this study: one is deposited in the National Museum of Natural History in Tehran (MMTT), and other two in the Razi University Zoological Museum (RUZM) in Kermanshah. The specimen examined in MMTT is labelled as "MMTT1074, *Eirenis* sp.", which is a misidentification as it actually belongs to *Coluber* (s. l.) *andreas*. This specimen was collected by Steven C. ANDERSON on 17 May 1975