

Two New Records of Reptiles (Reptilia: Squamata) from Southeastern Iran

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Abstract: Based on extensive research, the first record of *Coluber* (s.l.) *andreas* (Werner, 1917) and the first definite record of *Laudakia melanura lirata* (Blanford, 1874) from southeastern regions of the Iranian Plateau are presented.

Key Words: *Coluber* (s.l.) *andreas*, *Laudakia melanura lirata*, Iran

Coluber (s.l.) *andreas* (Werner, 1917)

During a review of the reptile collection of the Natural Museum of Natural History in Tehran (MMTT) a new specimen of the little-known colubrid snake, *Coluber* (s.l.) *andreas*, was identified. This specimen is an adult male, labeled as MMTT1431 and was collected by Michael Desfayes in 1975 in Dehbakri, 55 km north of Jiroft, on the road to Kerman, Kerman province (29 04N, 57 55E) (Figure 1).

This specimen bears 127 ventral plates, followed by 97 pairs of subcaudal scales. In the anterior, middle, and posterior parts of the dorsum there are 17, 17, and 16 dorsal scales, respectively. There are 7-7 supra- and 7-8 infralabials, 2 pre- and 2 post oculars, 1 loreal, and 1+2 - 1+3 temporals on the right and left sides of the head, respectively.

Although *Coluber* (s.l.) *andreas* has not been listed in "Snakes of Iran" (Latifi, 1991, 2000; Schätti (2001) and Rajabizadeh and Rastegar-Pouyani (2006) reported this taxon from localities in western parts of the central and southern Zagros Mountains (Figure 2). The new locality reported in this study is in the eastern regions of the southern Zagros Mountains at about 2000 m above



Figure 1. The specimen of *Coluber* (s.l.) *andreas* (MMTT1431) from Dehbakri, 55 km north of Jiroft, on the road to Kerman, Kerman province (29 04N, 57 55E).

sea level and is the first report of *Coluber* (s.l.) *andreas* in eastern central Zagros, which is about 450 km east of the former known localities of this taxon (Figure 2). Based on the recently known localities, one may conclude that this rare snake is probably distributed in whole of the

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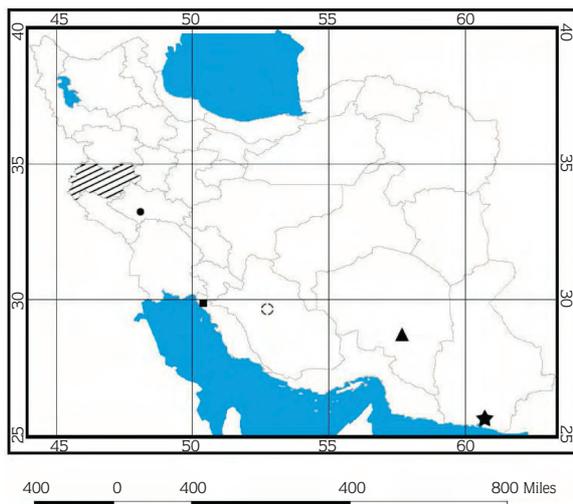


Figure 2. Known localities of 1) *Coluber* (s.l.) *andrewianus*, O: the presumed type locality in Fars province, ●: south of Dorud in Lorestan province, ■: Siah Makan in Bushehr province, ▨: Kermanshah province (no exact locality), ▲ north of Jiroft in Kerman province. 2) ★: new definite record of *Laudakia melanura lirata* north of Chabahar, Sistan-Baluchestan province.

central and southern Zagros Mountains towards the Persian Gulf.

***Laudakia melanura lirata* (Blanford, 1874)**

Although the distribution of *Laudakia melanura lirata* in southwest Pakistan reaches within a few miles of the Iranian border (Anderson, 1999) there was no definite record of the occurrence of this agamid inside the Iranian territory proper. During a project in the Chabahar area, south of Sistan-Baluchestan Province in 2005, a specimen of *L. m. lirata*, collected by F. Heidari (Iranian Wild Life Photographer), was examined. The sampling locality is about 9 km north of Chabahar harbor, in local mountains with less than 100 m elevation around Tis village (25 21N, 60 37E), (Figure 3). The specimen is preserved in



Figure 3. *Laudakia melanura lirata* in natural habitat north of Chabahar harbor. (Photograph by F. Heidari)

75% ethyl alcohol and is deposited in the first author's personal collection and labeled as KHPC125.

The morphological characters of this specimen are as follows: scales of back of head and middle of back are strongly keeled; median dorsal scales, which are broader than long, are in 6 longitudinal rows; in the middle of body 145 scales counted; caudal segments in posterior part of tail composed of 4 whorls of scales. In alcohol dorsal ground color light gray with reticulated dark bands on shoulder and sides, grading into irregular dark spots toward posterior parts of body; venter light tan, throat yellow with reticulated dark gray pattern. The collected specimen is an adult female with SVL (Snout-vent length): 112 mm and TL (Tail length): 202 mm. This is the first definite record of *L. m. lirata* inside the Iranian territory.

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