

First record and range extension of Field's horned viper, *Pseudocerastes fieldi* Schmidt, 1930 (Squamata: Viperidae), from Fars province, southern Iran

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Received: 09.03.2009

Abstract: Based on extensive research, the first record of Field's horned viper, *Pseudocerastes fieldi* Schmidt, 1930 from Fars province, southern Iran, is presented.

Key words: Horned viper, *Pseudocerastes fieldi*, Iran

The false horned vipers of the genus *Pseudocerastes* Boulenger, 1896 form a group of horned viper species with horn-like structures above their eyes that are made up of numerous small scales. The head is distinct from the neck, covered with small scales. Pupils vertical; nostrils directed outwards and upwards, in large undivided nasal shield. Supralabials with serrated lower margin and with inner groove to receive lower lip; body scales in 21-25 longitudinal rows, none obliquely disposed; keels on body scales do not reach posterior edge of scale but end in swollen knob before outer edge, keels not serrated; ventrals rounded, without lateral keels; tail short, subcaudals paired (Leviton et al., 1992). Its distribution is the North Arabian Desert from Sinai and southern Israel, Jordan, Iraq, southwestern Iran east to Afghanistan, and Pakistan west of the Indus River, with an outlying population in northern Oman (Bostanchi et al., 2006). *P. fieldi* has been reported from Sinai, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and

southwestern Iran (Bostanchi et al., 2006). The type specimen of *P. fieldi* is from Bair Wells, Transjordan (Leviton et al., 1992). In Iran, it has been reported from Kermanshah province (Latifi, 2000) and Bushehr province (Bostanchi et al., 2006) to date. In October 2008 during field work on the fauna of Mohr (in Fars province), a single specimen of *P. fieldi* was collected from the place called 'Khelleh' (27°33'N, 52°58'E; alt. 980 m), in a mountainous area between Narman and Bardakuyeh villages, 10 km from the city of Mohr, in the southwestern regions of Fars province (southern Iran) (Figures 1 and 2). The collected specimen of *P. fieldi* is now deposited in the Collection of the Biology Department of Shiraz University (CBSU) under museum number CBSUC897. Counts and measurements for this specimen are given in the Table. This new locality is about 360 km away from Binak (in Bushehr province), the nearest previously published record of this species (Bostanchi et al., 2006).

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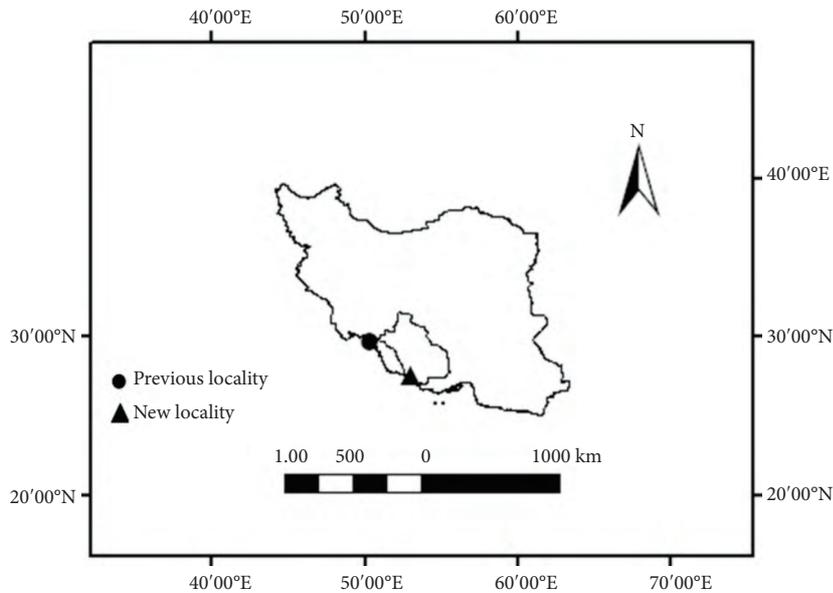


Figure 1. Previous and new locality records of Field's horned viper in southern Iran.



Figure 2. Female specimen of *Pseudocerastes fieldi* from southern Iran

Table. Counts and measurements for this specimen examined.

Sex	Female
<i>Scale counts</i>	
Ventrals	152 (with gulars)
Subcaudals (pairs)	45
Anal plate	single
Dorsal scales at midbody	23
Scales around eye	18
Interorbital scales	10
Scales between eyes and upper labials	4
Upper labials	13/14 (right/left)
Lower labials	16/17 (right/left)
<i>Measurements</i>	
Snout-vent (mm)	655
Tail (mm)	81

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Professor Steven C. Anderson, Department of Biological Sciences, University

of the Pacific, Stockton, California, USA, for verification of the specimen and his valuable suggestions, and Shiraz University for its financial support.

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