

Annotated checklist of amphibians and reptiles of Qom Province, central Iran

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The updated checklist of amphibians and reptiles of Qom Province, Central Iran is presented. Totally 46 species, 35 genera and 17 families of reptiles and amphibians are reported in the area. The most diverse suborder is serpentes with 19 species or 41.3% of the reptile species richness of the region. The most specious families with high diversification are ranked respectively: Colubridae with 11 species (23.91%), Agamidae (seven species, 15.21%), Lacertidae and Gekkonidae (each of which with five species, 10.86%), Scincidae (four species, 8.69%), Natricidae and Viperidae (each of which with two species, 4.3%), Bufonidae, Ranidae, Geoemydidae, Testudinidae, Anguidae, Varanidae, Typhlopidae, Erycidae, Lamprophiidae and Psammophiidae with a single species of each.

Key words: Herpetofauna, Qom, type species, record, taxon.

INTRODUCTION

The Qom Province covers a land area of about 11,340 km² (0.6% of total area of Iran), it is located between latitudes 34°-35°N and longitudes 50°-52°E. The region is bordered to the north by Tehran Province, to the south by Isfahan Province, to the west by Markazi Province, and to the east by Semnan Province. The elevation range in the Qom province extends from 800 m in the eastern parts to about 3330 m in the southern parts (Velija Mountain). However, Ahmadzadeh et al. (2008) reported biodiversity of lizards in Qom province. The comprehensive faunistic study has been carried out on the herpetofauna of Qom Province, including all species of reptiles and amphibians, by Rastegar-Pouyani (2010). Additionally, Ebrahimi et al. (2013) studied the effects of environmental factors on lizard habitat selectivity in the Qom Province using 15 species of lizard. In hence, in this paper we prepared a revised and updated checklist of amphibians and reptiles in the Qom Province.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This update checklist has been prepared based on all previous works done on the amphibians and reptiles fauna of Qom Province (e.g Ahmadzadeh et al., 2008; Rastegar-pouyani, 2010; Ebrahimi et al., 2013) and also by examination of material from various herpetological collections as well as several field expeditions during 2008 - 2012 in the Qom Province.

RESULTS

Taxonomic Account

Family Bufonidae Gray, 1825

Genus *Bufo* Rafinesque, 1815

Comment: *Bufo* Laurenti, 1768 (Type species: *Bufo viridis* Laurenti, 1768 by subsequent designation of Tschudi, 1838).

Bufo variabilis variabilis (Pallas, 1769)

Type locality: Lübeck, Germany.

Family Ranidae Rafinesque, 1814

Genus *Pelophylax* Fitzinger, 1843

Comment: *Pelophylax* Fitzinger, 1843 (Type species: *Rana esculenta* Linneus, 1758, by original designation).

Pelophylax ridibundus (Pallas, 1771)

Pelophylax ridibunda ridibunda (Pallas, 1771)

Type locality: Gurjev, north coast of Caspian Sea.

Family Geoemydidae Theobald, 1868

Genus *Mauremys* Gray, 1869

Comments: *Mauremys* Gray, 1869 subsequently designated type species (Lindholm, 1929). *Mauremys fuliginosa* (Gray, 1860) is a synonym of *Mauremys leprosa leprosa* (Schweigger, 1812).

Mauremys caspica siebenrocki Wischuf and Fritz, 1997

Type locality: Basrah, Iraq.

Family Testudinidae Batsch, 1788

Genus *Testudo* Linnaeus, 1758

Comments: *Testudo* Linnaeus, 1758 subsequently designated type species (Fitzinger, 1843). *Testudo graeca* Linnaeus, 1758 and *Testudo graeca graeca* Linnaeus, 1758 are synonymous.

Testudo graeca buxtoni Boulenger, 1921.

Type locality: Manjil, between Rasht and Qazvin, Iran.

Comments: *Testudo perses* Perälä, 2002 and *T. g. buxtoni* are synonyms (Fritz et al., 2007). The other Iranian subspecies is *Testudo graeca zarudnyi* Nikolsky, 1896 (Rastegar-Pouyani et al., 2008).

Family Agamidae Spix, 1825

Genus *Laudakia* Gray, 1845

Comment: *Laudakia* Gray, 1845 (Type species: *Agama tuberculata* Hardwicke and Gray, 1827, by monotypy).

Laudakia nupta nupta (De Filippi, 1843)

Type locality: Persepolis, Fars, Iran.

Genus *Paralaudakia* Baig, Wagner, Ananjeva and Böhme 2012

Comment: *Paralaudakia* Baig, Wagner, Ananjeva and Böhme, 2012 (Type species: *Stellio caucasicus* Eichwald, 1831).

Paralandakia caucasia caucasia (Eichwald, 1831)

Type locality: Moghan Steppe.

Genus *Phrynocephalus* Kaup, 1825

Comment: *Phrynocephalus* Kaup, 1825 (Type species: *Lacerta caudivolvula* Pallas, 1811-1831 is synonymous with *Lacerta guttata* Gmelin, 1789), by subsequent designation of Fitzinger, 1843.

Phrynocephalus maculatus maculatus Anderson, 1872

Type locality: Abadeh in north of Shiraz, Fars, Iran.

Phrynocephalus persicus De Filippi, 1863

Type locality: along route between Armenia and Tehran, Iran.

Phrynocephalus scutellatus (Olivier, 1807)

Type locality: Sophia Mountain, near Esfahan, Esfahan, Iran.

Genus *Trapelus* Cuvier, 1816

Comments: *Trapelus* Cuvier, "1817" (1816) (Type species: "Changeant d'Egypte Geoffroy" = *Agama mutabilis* Merrem 1820, by monotypy).

Trapelus agilis agilis (Olivier, 1804)

Type locality: Neighborhood of Baghdad, Iraq.

Trapelus ruderatus (Olivier, 1804)

Type locality: Near Esfahan, Esfahan, Iran.

Comments: The taxon formerly identified as *T. lessonae* (Rasyegar-Pouyani, 2000) but Ananjeva et al. (2013) changed its nomenclature to *T. ruderatus*.

Family Anguinae Gray, 1825

Genus *Pseudopus* Merrem, 1820

Comments: *Pseudopus* Merrem, 1820 (Type species: *Pseudopus apodus* Pallas, 1775). With regard to occurrence of this species in humid habitats, reporting of this species in the Qom province with arid climate is enigmatic. Two specimens of the species have been reported from Mujan and Veshareh villages (50° 12' E, 34° 28' N). It seems human introduction such as maintaining pets probably have a major role to record the species in the Qom province.

Pseudopus apodus apodus (Pallas, 1775)

Type locality: Naryn Steppe, Russia, on north coast of Caspian Sea.

Family Gekkonidae Gray, 1825

Genus *Agamura* Blanford, 1874

Comment: *Agamura* Blanford, 1874 (Type species: *Gymnodactylus persicus* Duméril, 1856, by subsequent designation of Smith, 1935).

Agamura persica (Duméril, 1856)

Type locality: Persia (=Iran).

Genus *Bunopus* Blanford, 1874

Comment: *Bunopus* Blanford, 1874 (Type species: *Bunopus tuberculatus* Blanford, 1874, by monotypy).

Bunopus crassicaudus Nikolsky, 1907

Type locality: Kum (=Qom), Iran

Genus *Cyrtopodion* Fitzinger, 1843

Comment: *Cyrtopodion* Fitzinger, 1827 (Type species: *Stenodactylus scaber* Heyden in Rüppell, 1827, by original designation).

Cyrtopodion scabrum (Heyden, 1827)

Type locality: Tor, Sinai, Egypt.

Genus *Tenuidactylus* Szczerbak and Golubev, 1894

Comment: *Tenuidactylus* Szczerbak and Golubev, 1894 (type species: *Gymnodactylus caspius* Eichwald, 1831).

Tenuidactylus caspium caspium (Eichwald, 1831)

Type locality: Baku (Azerbaijan).

Genus *Microgecko* Nikolsky, 1907

Comments: *Microgecko* Nikolsky, 1907 (Type species: *Microgecko helena* Nikolsky, 1907). Formerly, the species is located in the genus *Tropicolotes* Peters, 1880 but Sindaco and Jeremčenko (2008) positioned following species: *helena*, *latifi* and *persicus* in the genus *Microgecko* Nikolsky, 1907.

Microgecko latifi (Leviton and Anderson, 1972)

Type locality: Kerman, Kerman Province, Iran.

Family Lacertidae Bonaparte, 1831

Genus *Eremias* Fitzinger, 1834

Comments: *Eremias* Fitzinger in Wiegmann, 1834 (Type species: *Lacerta variabilis* Pallas, 1827 is a synonymous with *E. arguta* (Pallas), 1773, by subsequent designation of Fitzinger, 1843).

Eremias fasciata Balnford, 1874

Type locality: Said abad, Southwest of Kerman, Iran (for more details see Ebrahimi et al., 2013).

Eremias persica Blanford, 1875

Type locality: Near Esfahan, Esfahan Province, Iran.

Eremias velox velox (Pallas, 1771)

Type locality: Inderskiensem, Ghazaghistan.

Genus *Mesalina* Gray, 1838

Comment: *Mesalina* Gray, 1838 (Type species: *Mesalina Lichtensteini* Gray, 1838 is synonymous with *Lacerta rubropunctata* Lichtenstein, 1823).

Mesalina watsonana (Stoliczka, 1872)

Type locality: Sind, between Karachi and Sukkur, Pakistan.

Genus *Ophisops* Ménétriés, 1832

Comment: *Ophisops elegans* Ménétriés, 1832 (Type species: *Ophisops elegans* Ménétriés, 1832, by monotypy).

Ophisops elegans Ménétriés, 1832

Type locality: vicinity of Baku, Azerbaijan.

Family Scincidae Opperl, 1811

Genus *Ablepharus* Fitzinger, 1823

Comments: *Ablepharus* Fitzinger in Lichtenstein in Eversmann, 1823 (Type species: *Ablepharus pannonicus* Fitzinger in Lichtenstein in Eversmann, 1823, by monotypy).

Ablepharus pannonicus Fitzinger, 1823

Type locality: Bokhara, Uzbekistan.

Genus *Eumeces* Wiegmann, 1834

Comments: *Eumeces* Wiegmann, 1834 (Type species: *Scincus pavimentatus* Geoffroy St. Hilaire, 1827 and *Scincus schneiderii* Daudin, 1802 are synonyms by subsequent designation of Wiegmann, 1835).

Eumeces schneiderii princeps (Eichwald, 1839)
Type locality: Talysh Mountains, Azerbaijan.

Genus *Ophiomorus* Duméril and Bibron, 1839

Comment: *Ophiomorus* Duméril and Bibron, 1839, 1839 (Type species: *Ophiomorus millaris* Duméril & Bibron, 1839, by monotypy).

Ophiomorus nuchalis Nilson and Andrén, 1978

Type locality: Siah kuh, Kavir Protected region, Tehran, Iran (for more detail See Farhadi-Qomi, 2011).

Genus *Trachylepis* Fitzinger, 1843

Comment: *Trachylepis* Fitzinger, 1843 (Type species: *Euprepes savignyi* Duméril & Bibron, 1839 is a synonym of *Scincus quinquetaeniatus* Lichtenstein, 1823).

Members of this genus were previously placed in genus *Mabuya* Fitzinger, 1826 (for more details see Mausfeld et al., 2002; Mausfeld & Schmidt, 2003; Bauer, 2003).

Trachylepis septemtaeniata (Reuss, 1834)

Type locality: “Massua, Abyssinien” (Massawa, Eritrea).

Family Varanidae Gray, 1827

Genus *Varanus* Merrem, 1820

Comment: *Varanus* Merrem, 1820 (Type species: *Lacerta varia* White, 1790 by subsequent designation of Gray, 1827).

Varanus griseus caspius Eichwald, 1831

Type locality: Dardscha Peninsula, east of Caspian Sea.

Family Typhlopidae Merrem, 1820

Genus *Xerotyphlops* Hedges, Marion¹, Lipp, Marin and Vidal, 2014

Comment: *Xerotyphlops* Hedges, Marion¹, Lipp, Marin and Vidal, 2014 (Type species: *Typhlops vermicularis* Merrem, 1820).

Xerotyphlops vermicularis (Merrem, 1820)

Type locality: restricted to Greek Islands by Mertens and Müller, 1928 (for more details see Rastegar-Pouyani, 2010).

Family Erycidae Bonaparte 1831

Comments: The family formerly considered Boidae (Gray, 1825) but Pyron et al. (2013) revised the taxon and change the name to Erycidae.

Genus *Eryx* Daudin, 1803

Comments: *Eryx* Daudin, 1803 (Type species: *Boa turcica* Olivier, 1801 = *Eryx jaculus turcicus* (Olivier, 1801) by subsequent designation by Fitzinger, 1843).

Eryx c.f. *jaculus turcicus* (Olivier, 1801)

Type locality: Egypt.

Family Colubridae Opperl, 1811

Genus *Eirenis* Jan, 1863

Comments: *Eirenis* Jan, 1863 (Type species: *Coluber collaris* Menetries, 1832 by subsequent designation by Smith, 1943).

Eirenis punctatolineatus punctatolineatus (Boettger, 1892)

Type locality: Russisch- Armenia.

Eirenis persicus (Anderson, 1872)

Type locality: Bushehr, Bushehr Province, Iran.

Genus *Hemorrhois* Boie, 1826

Comment: *Hemorrhois* Boie, 1826 (Type species: *Coluber hippocrepis* Linnaeus, 1754, by original designation).

Hemorrhois ravergieri (Ménétriés, 1832)

Type locality: Baku, Azerbaijan.

Genus *Lytorhynchus* Peters, 1862

Comments: *Lytorhynchus* Peters, 1862 (Type species: *Heterodon diadema* Durntril, Bibron and Dumtril, 1854 by monotypy).

Lytorhynchus ridgenwayi Boulenger, 1887

Type locality: Chinkilok, Afghanistan

Genus *Platyiceps* Blyth, 1860

Comment: *Platyiceps* Blyth, 1860 (Type species: by monotypy, *Platyiceps subfasciatus* Blyth = *Coluber ventromaculatus* Gray).

Platyiceps karelini karelini (Brandt, 1836)

Type locality: borders of Caspian Sea.

Platyiceps najadum najadum (Eichwald, 1831)

Type locality: Baku, Azerbaijan.

Comments: Formerly, members of this genus were considered genus *Coluber* Linnaeus, 1758. *Coluber najadum najadum* (Eichwald, 1831). Latifi (2000) recorded *P.najadum Dabli* that was probably confusion with *P. najadum najadum* and then the taxon excluded in the Iranian herpetofauna (Rastegar-Pouyani et al., 2008). *P. najadum dabli* is distributed in Croatia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Greece and east through Turkey, Syria and Iraq.

Platyiceps rhodorachis rhodorachis (Jan, 1865)

Type locality: Persia (Iran), restricted to Schiras (Shiraz), Krammer and Schnurrenberger, 1963.

Platyiceps ventromaculatus ventromaculatus (Gray, 1834)

Type locality: not stated.

Genus *Spalerosophis* Jan in De Filippi, 1865

Comment: *Chilolepis* Fitzinger, 1843 (Type species: *Coluber cliffordii* Schlegel, 1837 is synonymous with *Spalerosophis diadema cliffordii*).

Spalerosophis Jan in De Filippi, 1865 (Type species: *Sphalerosophis microlepis* by original designation).

Spalerosophis microlepis Jan, 1865

Type locality: Larestan, Iran.

Spalerosophis diadema cliffordii (Schlegel, 1837)

Type locality: Tripoli, Lybia.

Genus *Telescopus* Wagler, 1830

Comments: *Telescopus* Wagler, 1830 (Type species: *Coluber dbara* Forskal, 1775 is a synonym of *Telescopus obtusus* Reuss, 1834 by subsequent designation of Merten and Muller (1940).

Telescopus rhinopoma (Blanford, 1874)

Type locality: Kerman, Iran (for more details see Rastegar-Pouyani, 2010).

Family Natricidae Bonaparte, 1838**Genus *Natrix* Laurenti, 1768**

Comments: *Natrix* Laurenti, 1768 (Type species: *Natrix vulgaris* Laurenti, 1768 is a synonym of *Coluber natrix* Linnaeus, 1758) by designation by Stejneger (1936).

Natrix natrix natrix (Linnaeus, 1758)

Type locality: Europe, Sweden (for more details see Kazemi & Rajabizadeh, 2007).

Natrix tessellata tessellata (Laurenti, 1768)

Type locality: "in Japidia (= Lapydia), vulgo Cars (= alpain meadow)," (probably Italy).

Family Lamprophiidae Fitzinger, 1843**Genus *Malpolon* Fitzinger, 1826**

Comments: *Malpolon* Fitzinger, 1826 (Type species: *Natrix lacertina* Wagler in Spix, 1824 = *Malpolon monspessulana* (Hermann, 1804) based on subsequent designation of Mertens and Muller (1928).

Malpolon insignitus (Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1827)

Type locality: "Egypte" (= Egypt) (For more details see Kazemi & Rajabizadeh, 2007; Rastegar-Pouyani, 2010).

Family Psammophiidae Bonaparte, 1845**Genus *Psammophis* Fitzinger, 1826**

Comments: *Psammophis* Boie, 1826 (Type species: *Coluber sibilans* Linnaeus 1758 by monotypy).

Psammophis schokari (Forsskål, 1775)

Type locality: Yemen.

Family Viperidae Laurenti, 1768**Genus *Macrovipera* Reuss, 1927**

Comments: *Macrovipera* Reuss, 1927 (Type species: *Coluber lebetinus* Linnaeus, 1758 (revised nomenclature is *Macrovipera lebetina* (Linnaeus, 1758) by original designation).

Macrovipera lebetina cernovi (Chikin et Szczerbak, 1992)

Type locality: Bank of the river Murghab in the vicinity of town Lolotan, Marijsky district, Turkmenista.

Comments: Six subspecies of *M. lebetina* has been reported by Ananjeva et al. (2006). The subspecies, *M. lebetina cernovi* occurs in eastern part of Iran (Chikin et Szczerbak, 1992). According to Sindaco et al. (2013) *M. lebetina peilei* is synonymous with *M. lebetina cernovi*.

Genus *Pseudocerastes* Boulenger, 1896

Comment: *Pseudocerastes* Boulenger, 1896 (Type species: *Cerastes persicus* Dumeril, Bibron & Bibron 1854, by monotypy).

Pseudocerastes persicus (Duméril, Bibron, & Duméril, 1854)

Type locality: Persia (= Iran).

DISCUSSION

According to our results, the Qom Province contains a large number of the Iranian herpetofauna whereas the Qom Province is the smallest province of Iran. This is a first comprehensive research of different taxa of amphibians and reptiles in the Qom Province. More supplementary studies to investigate more biological, biogeographical and historical aspects of the herpetofauna are needed.

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