

# **New Record of *Ophiomorus maranjabensis* Kazemi, Farhadi Qomi, Kami and Anderson, 2011 (Sauria: Scincidae) from Isfahan Province, Iran**

Farhadi Qomi, M.<sup>a,b</sup>, Kazemi, S.M.<sup>b</sup>, Kami, H.G.<sup>c</sup>, Hoseini, S.A.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Biology, College of Sciences, Damghan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Damghan, Iran.

<sup>b</sup>Zagros Herpetological Institute, 37156-88415, P. O. No 12, Somayyeh 14 Avenue, Qom, Iran.

<sup>c</sup>Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, Golestan University, Gorgan, Iran.

<sup>d</sup>Department of Biology, College of Sciences, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Fars, Iran.

*Ophiomorus maranjabensis* is a rare scincid lizard which has already been collected from two localities. The first record is from name of locality (Kazemi et al. 2011). Kazemi and his colleagues 2011 described this skink as a new species by three collected specimens from N 34°19'52.78", E 51°53'20.44" and N 34°18'56.50", E 51°52'45.15", Maranjab, south of Daryache Namak, Iran (Fig. 1). Our study presented one new record of this species and its habitat in Isfahan Province for the first time.

One specimen (ZMGU.2588 (Zoological Museum, Gorgan University)) collected by authors from N 33°55'26.75", E 51°45'19.17" in Abouzeid Abad village on December 25, 2011, where is about 45 kilometers away from the type locality. The habitat of *O. maranjabensis* in this region varies greatly from the type locality.

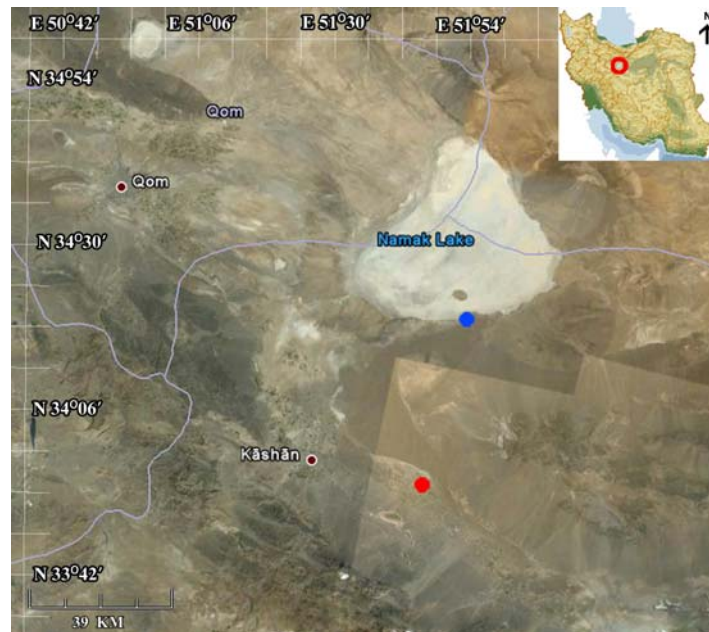
As in most of the eastern species, this species has got a dorsal ground color golden tan, and a venter cream-white without markings (Greer and Wilson, 2001). A dark stripe runs from nostril through eye along the length of body and tail. A dark roughly Y-shaped mark on the frontal and prefrontal; an approximately L-shaped mark on the front and center of the interparietal and a spot on the posterior part of that scale, defined spots on parietals and nuchals. Each paravertebral scale with a dark spot, these coalescing to form two dark lines down body onto tail, where they break up into lines of discrete dots that run the length of tail; two dorsolateral lines of discrete dots on either side of body and tail (Fig. 2).

Based on the last 10 years data from the nearest meteorological station in Kashan the average yearly precipitation is 170.7 mm. the mean recorded summer maximum air temperature is 40.4°C, and the minimum temperature mean is 0.5°C in winter. The maximum and minimum recorded temperature is 46°C, and the -9°C, respectively.

We found the scincid lizard in a farmland, a habitat (Fig. 3) which is different from the recorded for type locality of *O. maranjabensis*. The collected specimen was found in the afternoon on December 25, 2011 (under the soil, at 4:00 PM, +8°C),

According to Kazemi, and his colleagues (2011) the scincid lizard was collected under soil loose sandy, similar to substratum where other three-fingered, three-toed species of the genus are found, but we found scincid lizard in agricultural areas, the habitat was different from the type locality.

Other reptile species, observed in the same habitat and living syntopically with scincid lizard *O. maranjabensis* are *Ophiomorus nuchalis*, *Eumeces schneideri princeps*, *Eremias persica*, *Ophisops elegans*, *Bunopus crassicaudus*, *Trapelus agilis*, *Varanus griseus caspius*, *Spalerosophis diadema shiraziana*.



**FIGURE 1.** Localities of collected specimens; blue, type Locality (Kazemi et al, 2011); red, specimen from Abouzeid Abad (ZMGU.2588).



**FIGURE 2.** *Ophiomorus maranjabensis* (ZMGU.2588). Photograph by M. Farhadi Qomi.



**FIGURE 3.** Habitat of *Ophiomorus maranjabensis* (the specimen ZMGU.2588)

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We are grateful to Dr Maryam Khosh Sokhan for guiding us and for providing required literature. We also express our thanks to Ahmad Mofarrahi for cooperation in collecting specimens.

#### **LITERATURE CITED**

Greer, A.E., Wilson, G.D.F., 2001. Comments on the scincid lizard genus *Ophiomorus*, with a cladistic analysis of the species. *Hamadryad* 26, 261-271.

Kazemi, S.M., Farhadi Qomi, M., Kami, H.G., Anderson, S.C. 2011. A new species of *Ophiomorus* (Squamata: Scincidae) from Maranjab Desert, Isfahan Province, Iran, with a revised key to the genus. *Amphibian and Reptile Conservation* 5(1), 23-33(e23).