17820 (14), Tushetia, Verkhnee Omalo. Azerbaijan: ZIL 15952 (2), river gorge of the Durudzha, Nukhin region; 17957 (2), Vartashen region, Alpimemeadow.

Lacerta saxicola defilippii Camerano, 1877
(fig. 20 and photograph 11)

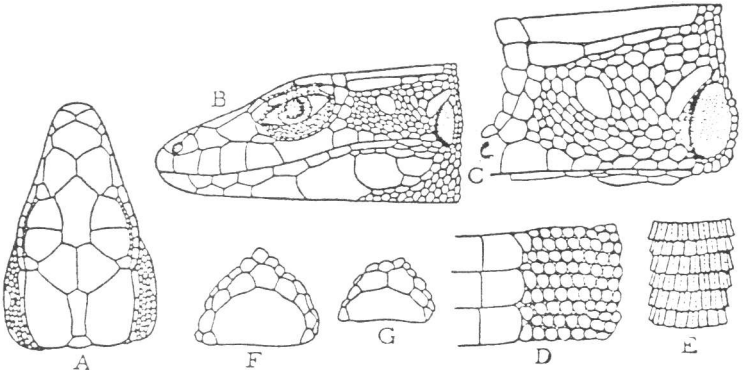


*Fig. 20. Major scalation of L. s. defilippii.*

*A - Head, dorsal view; B - head, lateral view; C - temporal region; D - contact zone between dorsal and ventral scales; E - dorsal anterior third of the tail; F, G - anal region (outskirts of Northern Teheran).*

L. muralis Blanford, 1876: 361. - Podarcis defilippii Camerano, 1877: 90, table 3, fig. 1, 3. -- Lacerta muralis var. defilippii Boettger (part.), 1886:44; Boulenger (part.), 1904:337, 1913:195, table 23, fig. 2 1920:288. -- muralis fusca var. persica Bedriaga, 1886:199 (183). -- saxicola var. defilippii Mehely (part.), 1909:519; Nikolskii (part.), 1915: 370. -- saxicola defilippii Morits, 1929:31; Lantz and Cyren (part.) 1936: 164; Terentiev and Chernov (part.), 1949:188; Forcart (part.), 1950:148; Bogdanov, 1962:108.

Holotype. Not designated. Described by Camerano (1877) from specimens from the Demavend mountain in northern Iran.

Description. The frontonasal scale is wider than long. The rostral scale is invariably separated from the frontonasal. The suture between the frontonasal and postnasal scales is longer than or equal to that between the anterior and posterior nasal scales. The sutures between the prefrontal and frontal are straight. The supraciliary scales are invariably separated from supraoculars by a complete, sometimes a double, row of 11-14 granules. The upper postorbital, generally does not reach the parietal. The first supratemporal scale is moderately long and posteriorly truncate; posterior to

it are 2-4 usually well-developed posttemporal scales. 3-4 tiny scales lie between the small mid-temporal and tympanic scales. Along the mid line of the throat to the collar, there are 22-27 scales. The body scales are smooth, slightly prominent; 43-60 scales are in a single row around midbody. Each ventral scale laterally touches 2-3 dorsal scales, the posterior one is usually somewhat enalrged. The pectoral and ventral scales are arranged in 23 - 29 transverse rows. Anterior of the large anal, usually 2 enlarged preanals are arranged symmetrically or all the preanals are subequal. The femoral pores number 14-20. There are 3 - 6 transverse rows of tiny scales on the underside of the thigh betweeen the pores and outer row of large scales. The scales covering the crus are smooth or with faint keels and do not exceed the body scales in size. There are 14 - 18 scales in one row around the middle of the crus. The scales on the anterior third of the tail have well-developed keels. The posterior ends of the scales are usually pointed. The snout-vent length is 50 - 57 mm in males and 50 - 58 mm in females.

The dorsal body color is brown, olive-gray, fawn, or according to L. Morits (1929), green. The occipital stripe is formed of irregular shaped blotches usually concentrated in the center of the back forming a reticular pattern.

The temporal stripes consist of longitudinal rows of dark ocelli with distinct whitish centers, the scalli lie on a dark background. A well-developed row or whitish ciliary spots usually extend along the dorsal edge of the temporal stripes. Specimens with a barely visible patten are also encountered. According to Blanford's observations (1876), the venter of living lizards, including the chest and throat, and sometimes the infralabial scales are usually brick red while bright blue or bluish-green spots are present on the outer row of the ventral scales.

Geographical distribution. The range ot this subspecies encompasses the Elburz range in northern Iran to central Kopet-Dag in Turkmenia in the east. In Iran, apart from type locality (Demaven mountain in central Elburz), it is known at several points north of Teheran (Forcart, 1950; Wettsrein 1951; Clark et al., 1966). Evidently, this lizard was collected by O. Gerts in the Atrek valley on the southern slopes of Kopet-Dag roughly 40 km from the Russian border (Boettgar, 1888). The collection of ZIL, Academy of Sciences, USSR, similarly contains 4 young specimens caught by N.A. Zarudnyi in 1903 near Astrabad. It was positively found for the first time within Turkmenia by L. Morits (1929) in the Firiuzin gorge close to Ashkhabad and 15 km south of Giaurs to the West of Ashkhabad. The correctness of identification made by Morits was confirmed later by S.A. Chernov (1934) (Fig. 21).

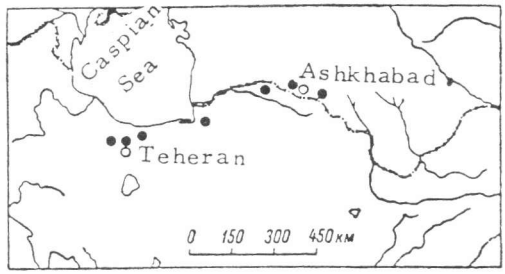


*Fig. 21. Distribution of L. s. defilippi in northern Iran and southwestern Turkmenia.*

Geographical variation. This has not been studied. An examination of the small number of specimens from northern Iran readily available to us suggests a slight increase from east to west in several characters (Table 7).

Comparative notes. According to Méhely (1909), lizards from northern Iran as well as from eastern and southeastern Transcaucasia belong to L. saxicola var. defilippii. Boulenger (1913, 1920), Nikolskii (1915),, Chernov (1939), and Darevsky (1957) also subscribed to this view, However, even Lantz and Cyren (1936) drew attention to the distinct differences between the lizards from Iran and Transcaucasia, especially the red venters of the Elburz specimens described by Blanford (1876) which is nowhere noticed in "defilippii" from Transcaucasia. According to our data, the Iranian and Transcaucasian lizards also differ completely in some scale characteristics and dorsal body coloration.

An examination of some specimens from the northern slopes of Elburz range (NMB 10888-10889) identified by Forcart (1950) as L. s. defilippii demonstrated that they belong to the species Lacerta chloroqaster.

Specimens examined. Iran (northern): ZIL 10191 (3),10199 (1), Gorgan (Astrabad); NMB 14274 (1), Hafthos valley north of Teheran; 15475 (1), Pasghaich valley north of Teheran.

Lacerta saxicola lantzicyreni nom. n.
(Fig. 22) photo. 8).

L. saxicola mehelyi Lantz and Cyren, 1936:165,, 175; Terentiev and Chernov, 1940:98; Bodenheimer, 1944:24; Mertens 1952:52; Darevsky, 1965b:385.