

**GENERAL INFORMATION.**— *Size*:  $SVL_{\max} = 500$  mm (Darevsky 1957a).

*Karyotype*: No data available for Armenian or Nagorno-Karabakh populations.

*Habitat* (see Pls. 18–22, 25–30), *life history*, and *biological notes*: The species inhabits a wide variety of habitats between 350 and 2388 m (Darevsky 1957a). It occurs in gardens, vineyards, open forests, thickets, bushlands, and grasslands. It avoids open semidesert zones.

At low altitudes, it emerges from hibernation in late March, whereas at higher elevations, it emerges in late April. Activity ends in late September to late October depending on altitude. Diurnal; when temperatures rise, these lizards take refuge in the shade of trees or bushes, in or near water. In arid habitats, it estivates.

Mating begins after emergence from hibernation and lasts until late May, notably among populations living in the mountains at higher elevations. Starting in mid-June, females lay from five to ten (more commonly six to eight) elongated eggs ( $38\text{--}45 \times 20\text{--}21$  mm). Females oversee their eggs for 50–60 days. Hatchlings emerge from early August to early September ( $SVL = 100\text{--}125$  mm, tail length = 154–180 mm).

Seasonal migration movements were studied by Darevsky (1957a) in the Yeranov area (Kotayk Province) where, from mid- to late-July, these glass lizards migrate down slope towards the Azat River and the Azat Reservoir, a distance of more than 1.5 km; by late July/early August, none of these glass lizards was seen active on the mountain slopes.

*Pseudopus apodus* feeds mostly on invertebrates, such as snails, and a variety of insects, including beetles, larvae of cicadas, orthopterans, as well as myriapods and spiders. Sometimes their prey consists of only one type of insect such as cockchafer (*Melolontha*), or flightless beetles (*Dorcadion*), or shad-beetles (*Geotrupes*). They also feed on small mammals, small reptiles, as well as nesting birds and nestlings. Darevsky (1957a) reported that they have been observed eating fruits as well.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.**— One of the most common and widespread of Armenian reptiles. It is protected only in the Khosrov Reserve.

REFERENCES: Ananjeva et al. 2006; Blanford 1876; Boettger 1892; Chernov 1939; Dal 1954; Danielyan 1972; Darevsky 1957a; Hailey 1984; Mertens and Müller 1928; Nikolsky 1897; Obst et al. 1980; Pallas 1775; Sindaco et al. 2000; Szczerbak 2003.

### Family Lacertidae Oppel, 1811<sup>4</sup>

#### *Darevskia armeniaca* (Méhely, 1909)

#### Armenian Rock Lizard

Plate 5, figures 18a–18b.

*Lacerta muralis*, Boettger 1893:83.

*Lacerta saxicola* var. *armeniaca* Méhely 1909:549.

*Lacerta saxicola armeniaca*, Lantz and Cyrén 1936:179.

*Lacerta armeniaca*, Darevsky 1966b:127.

**TYPE LOCALITY.**— “Elenovka, am Westufer des Göktschai-Sees” [and] Djelal-Ogly (Gouv. Tiflis, 1500 m) [= Sevan town, W shore of Sevan Lake, Armenia, and “Djelal-Ogly”, Governate of Tiflis, 1550 m]. Darevsky (1967:138) designated one of the two specimens from “Elenovka” [= Sevan] as the lectotype.

**TAXONOMY.**— Monotypic. A parthenogenetic species that appears to have originated by hybridization between *D. valentini* × *D. mixta*.

**GENERAL DISTRIBUTION.**— Armenia, NE Anatolia, S Georgia, NW Azerbaijan.

<sup>4</sup> In 2004, Dubois posited that the family-group name Lacertidae should be attributed to Batsch, 1788 (2004:6), but in a later paper he and Bour (2010b) reversed that recommendation and attributed the name to Oppel (1811).

**DISTRIBUTION IN THE STUDY AREA** (Pl. 5:18b).— Widespread throughout northern and central Armenia.

*First record:* This species was described by L. Méhelÿ (1909) based on two Armenian specimens collected near Elenovka (present-day Sevan), Armenia.

**GENERAL INFORMATION.**— *Size:* SVL<sub>max</sub> = 73 mm, recorded for a six-year-old lizard from Semenvskii Pass (Arakelyan 2001a).

Dorsal scales at midbody = 42–47 (average 44.2); gular scales = 19–26 (average 22.3); femoral pores = 14–19 (average 15.6) (Darevsky 1967).

*Karyotype:* 2n = 38, 36 macrochromosomes (acrocentric) and 2 microchromosomes (Kupriyanova 1994).

*Habitat* (see Pls. 18, 22–24, 32), *life history, and biological notes:* *Darevskia armeniaca* inhabits moderately dry rocky habitats, such as rocky slopes as well as dry stony river channels in both forest and mountain steppe. Occasionally, the species occurs in grassy vegetation. It also may be found on walls, among ruins, and around garbage dumps. Altitudinal range 900–2700 m. Active from March until October at low altitudes, and from April until September at higher elevations. Typically diurnal. As is true for most Armenian reptiles, activity is bimodal during the warmest months of the summer.

Populations consist almost exclusively of females; only rarely are males found among them, although in populations in the vicinity of Artavazd (Kotayk Province) and Dilijan (Tavush Province), not only do males occasionally appear having developed testes and fully developed copulatory organs, but hermaphrodites are to be found as well (Darevsky et al. 1978; Darevsky and Kupriyanova 1982). Females with oviductal eggs, which range in size from 5 to 7 mm and in weight from 1.5 to 2.5 g, have been observed beginning in mid-June (Arakelyan 2001b); eggs are laid in a single clutch from the end June through early- to mid-July.

Skeletochronological studies carried out by Arakelyan (2001a, 2001c) show that sexual maturity is attained during the third or fourth year. Among 12 individuals (three years old), only two laid one to three eggs (egg average size 12.4 × 6.5 mm). Four year-old females lay from one to four eggs (average size 12.6 × 6.6 mm), whereas five- and six-year-old lizards produce clutches consisting of two to seven eggs (average size 12.9 × 7.1 mm). Juveniles appear in mid-August (SVL = 23–29 mm). Although the maximum recorded age is eight years, seven-year-old lizards represent only 1.2% of the entire studied sample.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.**— An abundant lizard throughout its range, it is classified as “Least Concern” by the IUCN (2009).

REFERENCES: Ananjeva et al. 2006; Arakelyan 2001a, 2001b, 2001c, 2008; Bannikov et al. 1997; Boettger 1893; Chernov 1939; Dal 1954; Danielyan et al. 2008; Danielyan 1972, 1981; Darevsky 1966b, 1967; Darevsky et al. 1978; Darevsky and Kupriyanova 1982; Fu et al. 2000a; IUCN 2009; Kupriyanova 1994; Lantz and Cyrén 1936; MacCulloch et al. 1995; Martirosyan 2003; Malysheva et al. 2007; Méhelÿ 1909; Murphy 2000; Szczerbak 2003.

### *Darevskia dahli* (Darevsky, 1957)

### Dahl’s Rock Lizard

Plate 5, figures 19a–19b.

*Lacerta saxicola dahli* Darevsky 1957c:32.

*Lacerta dahli*, Darevsky 1966b:127.

**TYPE LOCALITY.**— “Armyanskaya SSR, Kirovakanskii raion, okr. stancii Shahali” [= vicinity of railway station Shahali, Kirovakan region, Armenia].

**TAXONOMY.**— A parthenogenetic species that originated by hybridization between *D. portschinskii* × *D. mixta*.