

Mesalina watsonana (STOLICZKA, 1872)
Persian Long-tailed Lizard

Global range: Afghanistan, India, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkmenistan.

Distribution in Iran: Provinces of Alborz, Bushehr, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Fars, Hormozgan, Isfahan, Kerman, North Khorasan, Razavi Khorasan, South Khorasan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Kuzestan, Markazi, Qom, Semnan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Tehran, and Yazd.

Biology: The Persian Long-tailed Lizard lives in most regions of Iran. It inhabits hard soils of sedimentary plains, alluvial deltas, mountain slopes and valleys, along streams and springs. It may also be found in gravel and clay sediments, in sandy and clayey steppes, and on slopes covered with scattered clayed stones and salty lands. This lizard can sink into the soil when it feels threatened.



Fig. 254: There are several pale brown to dark beige stripes and regularly arranged white and black spots on the dorsal surface of *Mesalina watsonana*.

Kamran KAMALI

Size: Snout–vent length 56 mm, tail length 114 mm.

Reproduction: Oviparous.

Status: Common.

Conservation status: IUCN: –, CITES: –, National: Non-protected.

Diet: Arachnids and insects.

Activity pattern: Diurnal.