

## The southern limit of *Omanosaura* lizards (Squamata: Lacertidae)

Roberto Sindaco<sup>1\*</sup>, Alberto Venchi<sup>2</sup> and Cristina Grieco<sup>3</sup>

The lacertid genus *Omanosaura* includes only two poorly known species, *O. jayakari* (Boulenger, 1887) and *O. cyanura* (Arnold, 1972), endemic to the Hajar Mountains, from the Musandam Peninsula to Eastern Oman (see Sindaco & Jeremčenko, 2008).

Both species have been only rarely quoted in the literature (Arnold, 1972, 1986; Arnold and Gallagher, 1977; Bischoff and Schmidtler, 1981; Geissler, 1998; Leptien and Böhme, 1994; Meinig, 1998).

The southernmost published locality for both species is the Jebel Akhdar (Leptien and Böhme, 1994; van der Kooij, 2001). Gardner (2009) recently published a distributional map without any locality identification; in this map a locality in Eastern Hajar (approximately in the Jabal Abyad or Jabal Aswad) is reported for both *O.*

*jayakari* and *O. cyanura*.

During a brief survey, in November 2010, four specimens of *Omanosaura cyanura* and two specimens of *O. jayakari* were observed on the top of the escarpment East-South-East of Al Jaylah village, between Tiwi and Ash Shariq (or Ismayyah), in the Jabal Bani Jabir, at an altitude of 1770 meters (N22.77 E59.06).

Specimens of *O. cyanura* (Fig. 1) were found active between 12:00 and 14:00, among rock crevices in the higher part of a cliff. An adult specimen of *O. jayakari* was observed active on the rocky ground, before escaping in a deep crevice, while a young was observed active at the base of the cliff.

The same day we observed four *Omanosaura jayakari* (Fig. 2) in a second place of the Jabal Bani Jabir, a small rocky valley near Al Hajar ash Shargi village (about N22.84 E59.14), at 1365 m. The first individual was active between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m.. Additionally, two adults and a juvenile were active on rocks on the edge of small cliffs, close to a small stream.

These new records (Fig. 3) extend the known range of the two species of about 60 kilometers SE of the locality mapped by Gardner (2009).

1 Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, via San Francesco di Sales, 88 – I-10022 Carmagnola (TO), Italy; e-mail: rsindaco@gmail.com

2 Via Donna Olimpia, 204 - 00152 Roma, Italy;

3 I.P.L.A. - Istituto per le Piante da Legno e l'Ambiente, corso Casale 432 – I-10132 Torino, Italy.

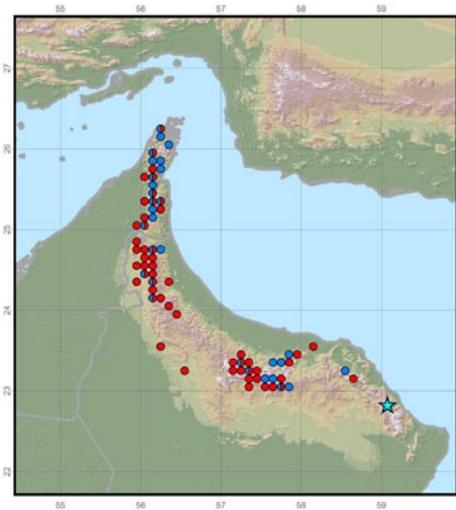
\* Corresponding author.



**Figure 1.** *Omanosaura cyanura*, Oman, Jabal Bani Jabir, top of the escarpment ESE of Al Jaylah village at about N22.77 E 59.06, m 1770, 25/11/2010 (photo R. Sindaco).



**Figure 2.** *Omanosaura jayakari*, Oman, Jabal Bani Jabir near Al Hajar ash Shargi village at about N22.84 E59.14, m 1365 a.s.l., 25/11/2010 (photo R. Sindaco).



**Figure 3.** Known range of the genus *Omanosaura*; *O. jayakari* (in red), *O. cyanura* (in cyan), and the new localities reported in this paper (star). Cyan and red dots indicate co-occurrence of both species.

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