

Eremias strauchi KESSLER, 1878
Strauch's Racerunner

Identification: Larger and thicker bodied than *E. pleskei*; with a total length up to 20 cm, or longer. Usually the occipital plate is absent; the subocular in contact with edge of the mouth. 54-71 rows of scales around mid-trunk; femoral pores between 17-22, closer medially to each other than those of *E. pleskei*. The dorsum is greenish or brownish gray, the vertebral region immaculate, lined with lighter or darker maculations. The venter is whitish; in young, the longitudinal stripes or intermittent lines on dorsum are more prominent.

Habitat & Biology: Inhabits desert-like dry, open places with sandy, pebbly substrates and scanty vegetation. Feeds on insects and some plant material. Hides in depressions and cracks in soil, can also burrow. A female lays 3-7 eggs.

Distribution: The known range extends from Turkey to Azerbaijan, Armenia, Iran and Turkmenistan; with a vertical distribution to 3500 m. In Turkey, known from E Anatolia Region, in the vicinities of Iğdır and Tuzluca.



47. *Eremias strauchi*