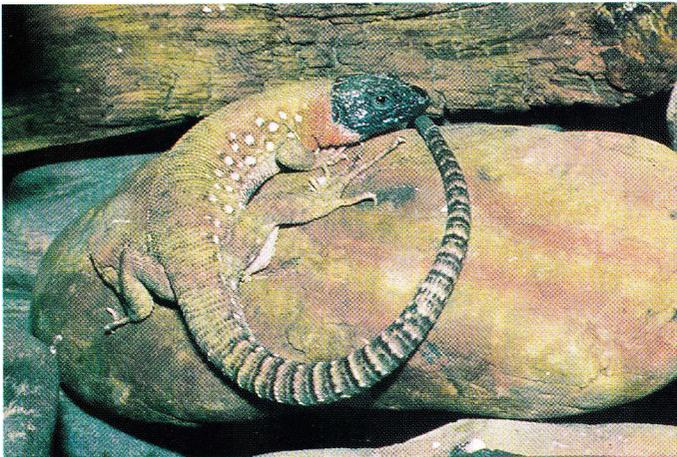


Lacerta princeps BLANFORD, 1874
Siirt Lizard

Identification: Total length up to 40 cm, or slightly longer. Rostral in contact with external nares; 2 postnasals; supraciliary granules between 0-7. 33-42 rows of keeled dorsal scales at mid-trunk; ventrals in 8 longitudinal rows; femoral pores between 16-21. The dorsum is light yellow or brown, with dark brown maculations. Flanks with a row of white round spots, biggest in the front. The venter is whitish or gray-yellow. During the breeding season, chin is bluish-black and throat is orange red in males. Juveniles have less maculations dorsally.

Habitat & Biology: Found in sparsely populated oak groves and rocky-pebbly parts of low tree woods, sometimes seen in bushy or grassy plains. Can climb on trees. Feeds on insects and spiders. A female lays 5-10 eggs.

Distribution: Its range includes Turkey, Iran and Iraq; with a vertical distribution between 800-2200 m. In Turkey, a single subspecies, *L. p. kurdistanica* SUCHOW, 1936 lives in the vicinities of Vilayets Siirt, Mardin and Hakkari in SE Anatolia.



61. *Lacerta princeps*