

On the occurrence of the Zagros lacertid, *Lacerta zagrosica* Rastegar-Pouyani & Nilson, 1998 (Sauria: Lacertidae) in Central Zagros Mountains, Iran

N. RASTEGAR-POUYANI

Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Razi University, 67149 Kermanshah, Iran; nasrullah.r@gmail.com

The lacertid lizards of the genus *Lacerta* Linnaeus, 1758 occur in Iran with at least 13 documented species. Of these, the recently described and endemic species, *Lacerta zagrosica* Rastegar-Pouyani & Nilson 1998, was originally recorded in a very restricted locality in the rocky areas of the central Zagros Mountains, Isfahan Province, west-central Iran at about 2500 m elevation. During a long-term study and field work in the Zagros Mountains, some new and remote localities were found for this species in the high mountainous regions of the central Zagros Mountains at the elevation of more than 3000 m. The area is covered by snow for at least eight months within a year. So, the hibernation period is extraordinarily long for this species in the studied area. These new and mountainous localities are located in Isfahan and Kohgiluyeh-va-Buyer Ahmad Provinces, west-central Iran. Based on this study, a certain degree of geographic variation exists between the original, topotypic population of *Lacerta zagrosica* and the newly recorded, above-mentioned, populations.

Systematics and relationships of *Lacerta zagrosica* are shortly discussed and its distribution map is given.

