

Artik region; (6) pass between Idzhevan and Bered; and (3) around Berd-Georgia; ZIL, 17446 (18), around Bakuriani, road in the pass Tskhra-Tskara; 17537 (7), around Akhaikalaki; 17737 (7), around Tsalka; 17741 (20), around Tsalka; 17778 (9), western slope of Tskhra-Tskaro pass; and 17798 (4), Rekha, Tsalkin region. Azerbaijan ZIL 14420 (1) Turchai river, Kirovabad region; 17487 (6), upper course of river Gandzhachai, Kirovabad region; 17781 (5); Gei-Gel lake, Kirovabad region. Turkey (northeastern): ZIL 10819 (5), around Ardagan; 10820, around Ardagan; NMW 18383 (3), Western slopes of Yalnizcham range, Artvin vilayet.

Lacerta dahli Darevsky 1957

(Table II D, Fig.55;Photo.22).

L. saxicola defilippii, Chernov (part.) 1939:111.-- saxicola dahli, Darevsky, 1957 32, Table 2, Fig.3. -- dahli Darevsky 1966b: 127, Fig. 3C.

Holotype. -- ZIA, Academy of Sciences, Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic 892, ♀, around Shagali village in northern Armenia, July 27, 1955, collected by I.S. Darevsky.

Description -- The width of the frontonasal is greater than or rarely equal to its length. The rostral is invariably separate from the frontonasal. The suture between the postnasal and frontonasal is considerably shorter than that between the anterior and posterior nasals; in 60 per cent of the cases, they are fully separated from each other or there is a small additional supranasal between them. The sutures between the frontonasals and frontal are straight or slightly concave. The supraciliaries are set off from the supraoculars by a full row of 14 - 20 granules. The posterior supraciliary usually does not reach the parietal or sometimes touches it, only on one side. The first supratemporal is long, noticeably constricted, and truncated posteriorly: posterior of it, there are 2 - 5 relatively small, sometimes indistinct, posttemporals in a single row. 2-3 enlarged scales are arranged in single file between the midtemporal and the large tympanic. Along the midline of the throat, there are 24 - 30 scales. The collar is not serrated. The body scales are smooth, faintly bulged, being larger laterally than dorsally. Around midbody, 51 - 56 scale rows are present. The pectoral and ventral scales are arranged in 24 - 29 transverse rows. The ventral scales meet laterally with 2 body scales of which the posterior is somewhat triangular in form and greatly enlarged so that they form narrow additional rows of scales on each side of the body. Anterior of the large anal, 2 enlarged preanals are arranged symmetrically. The femoral

pores number 14 - 20. Between the pores and the outer row of enlarged scales, 5 or very rarely 4 transverse rows of tiny scales lie on the underside of the thigh. The dorsal scales of the crus are faintly keeled and are not larger than those on the back. Around the middle of the crus there are 15 - 20 scale rows. The scales on the anterior third of the tail have faint keels dorsally and more prominent ones laterally; their posterior edges are somewhat upturned in the form of a short spinule. Some scales are truncate posteriorly whereas others project at a very acute angle. The snout-vent length is 48 to 64 mm. The ratio of snout-vent to the unregenerated tail length is 0.48 - 0.75. The dorsum is brownish beige, beige, fawnish-brown, brownish-gray, pale ochreous or dark sandy in color. Along the spine, irregular tiny dark brown blotches and spots are present, but these do not cover the entire width of the back. They nevertheless form the occipital stripe and usually extend across the full width. These blotches and spots are particularly distinct in the young specimens. Brownish fawn temporal stripes consist of fairly distinct dark ocelli which are usually not completely closed. The ocelli have whitish centers in general and blue ones at the level of the anterior limbs. At the edge of the abdomen, the supraamaxillary stripes of the same color as the main background are very distinct. These stripes contain blurred bright blotches. The venter to the collar is canary yellow or greenish-yellow. The throat and the underside of the head are dull white. Bluish blotches are prominently on the edges of the outer ventral scales. The top of the head has tiny brownish spots.

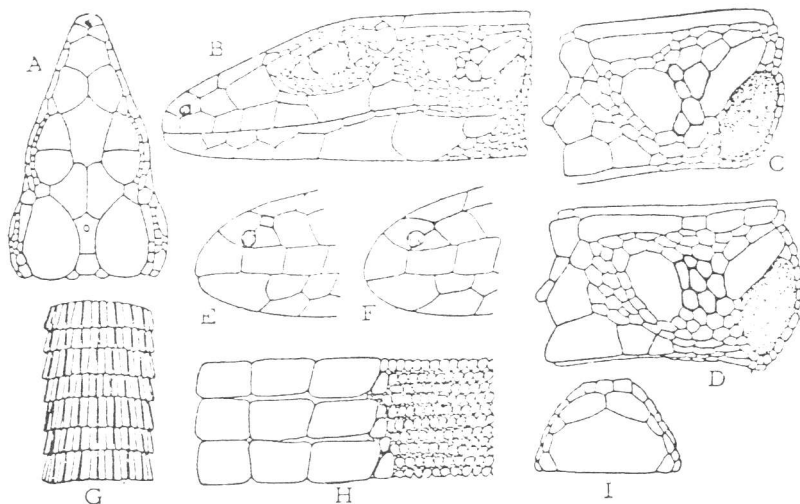


Fig. 55. Major scalation of *L. dahli*.

A - Head, dorsal view; B - head, lateral view; C, D - temporal region; E - nasal region with a supranasal present; F - nasal region with no supranasal; G - dorsal anterior third of tail; H - contact zone between dorsal and ventral scales (E, F - Tsalka; rest - Kirovakan).

Geographical distribution. This species occurs primarily in the inner part of the Armenian upland, in the forest region of northern Armenia and southern Georgia. The northern edge of the main range extends along the Tsalka village in the west to around Manglisi, Kodzgori, Tskhneti, and the Vera River gorge near Tbilisi in the east. The southern edge passes into Armenia along the southern slopes of the Bazum range and gorges of the Pambak and Agstev Rivers from around Leninakan in the west to the Dilizhan health resort in the east.

Small isolated populations far removed from the main range occur around the village of Kvemo-Boshuri in the Tana River gorge and on the left bank of Kura around the village of Kareli in Georgia. Fairly distinct breaks in the range also occur in some regions of Armenia (Fig. 35, 2). The distribution of this species is largely sympatric with L. armeniaca and partly with L. rostrombekovi, all 3 species are sympatric at some places. It occurs at some places with L. s. portschinskii.

Geographical variation. Samples were examined from 5 isolated populations 60, 65 and 30 km apart from north to south (Table 23).

As may be seen from fig. 56, all the samples studied are practically indistinguishable from each other with respect to most of the characteristics of the scaly integument. This suggests a significant uniformity of all the same samples. At the same time, there is no cline whatsoever in the meristic features of scalation in the species under consideration, though the maximum deviations of some characters from their average values occurs in the samples from extreme northern and southern populations. It may be seen that the largest specimens occur in the hill populations around the village of Tsalka which confirms the dependence of body dimensions on the elevation of their habitat in the mountains, a dependence noticed in the rock lizard group. The geographical variation of the presence of an additional postnasal shield which is characteristic of L. dahli is of special interest.

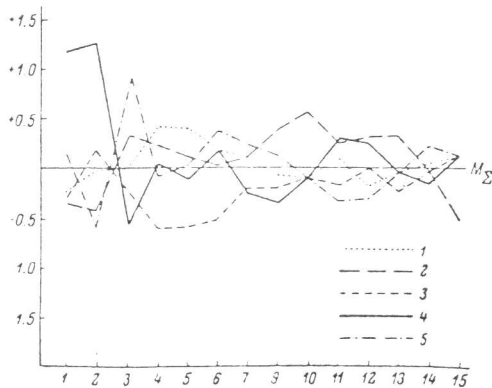
The maximum number of specimens with such scales occurs around the village of Tsalka in Georgia whereas minimum of them occur in the sample from the vicinity of the villages Kareli and Kvemo-Boshuri in Kura valley. By comparing this variation pattern with the high elevation of the lizards' habitat, it may be seen that the number of specimens possessing the additional scales increases noticeably with the increasing elevation in the mountains.

Comparative notes. L. dahli is similar to the bisexual form L. s. raddei in many meristic features of pholidosis but differs from it

Table 23

## Geographical variation

Characters	Around villages Kvemo-Boshuri in Atensk gorge and Kareli in Kura river valley (Georgia), N = 13 ♀♀		Around Manglisi health resort (Georgia), N = 20 ♀♀		Around village Tsalka (southern Georgia), N = 10 ♀♀	
	Range of variation	$M \pm m$	Range of variation	$M \pm m$	Range of variation	$M \pm m$
1	54—64	57.82±0.96	49—61	55.05±0.59	57—64	60.71±1.21
2	72—104	89.50±4.23	81—112	98.69±2.94	108—115	111.50±3.50
3	0.57—0.75	0.64±0.02	0.50—0.68	0.56±0.01	0.53—0.55	0.54±0.01
4	51—55	53.00±0.30	51—54	52.15±0.21	52—55	53.20±0.39
5	24—30	26.77±0.46	24—28	26.15±0.25	25—28	26.60±0.37
6	16—20	17.73±0.34	14—18	16.73±0.34	16—20	17.50±0.38
7	8—12	10.69±0.29	9—12	10.33±0.15	9—12	10.30±0.28
9	24—28	27.00±0.30	25—28	26.65±0.16	24—28	26.50±0.34
10	2—2	2.00±0.00	2—2	2.00±0.00	2—2	2.00±0.00
11	2—3	2.04±0.05	2—3	2.10±0.07	2—3	2.30±0.15
12	2—4	3.31±0.15	2—5	3.50±0.15	2—5	3.65±0.18
13	2—2	2.00±0.00	1—3	1.95±0.07	2—2	2.00±0.00
14	16—19	17.23±0.23	16—18	16.95±0.15	15—19	16.80±0.39
15	5—5	5.00±0.00	5—5	5.00±0.00	5—5	5.00±0.00

Fig. 56. Summary graph of variation of *L. dahli*.

1 - Kirovakan; 2 - Stepanavan; 3 - Manglisi; 4 - Tsalka; 5 - Kvemo-Boshuri.

distinctly in the arrangement of scales in the nasal region and the ventral coloration of living animals. The need to isolate *L. dahli* into an independent species has already been demonstrated.

Specimens examined. Armenia: ZIL 14374 (5) - Stepanavan; 14416(2) around Shagali station; 15990 (5) Ardvi, Alaverd region, 15602 (7) Stepanavan; 16550 (7) Tumanian, Alaverd region; 16676 (15) around Kirovakan; 17052 (4) Stepanavan; 17469 (4) gorge of Pambak River above Spitak town; 17481 (1) around Nor-Baiazet (Kamo); 17086 (32) around

of *Lacerta dahli*

Around Stepanavan town (northern Armenia), N = 20 ♀♀		Around Kirovakan town (northern Armenia), N = 19 ♀♀		Subspecies as a whole, N = 82		
Range of variation	M ± m	Range of variation	M ± m	Range of variation	M ± m	s
48-63	55.00 ± 0.95	53-58	55.42 ± 0.36	48-64	56.25 ± 0.40	3.64
75-106	91.62 ± 3.06	84-110	96.55 ± 2.60	72-115	96.57 ± 1.30	11.70
0.48-0.76	0.60 ± 0.02	0.50-0.64	0.58 ± 0.016	0.48-0.76	0.58 ± 0.0076	0.068
51-56	53.55 ± 0.29	52-56	53.79 ± 0.31	51-56	53.15 ± 0.18	1.63
24-29	26.90 ± 0.37	24-30	27.32 ± 0.35	24-30	26.75 ± 0.17	1.55
15-19	17.33 ± 0.23	16-20	17.50 ± 0.20	14-20	17.31 ± 0.12	1.10
9-12	10.60 ± 0.17	10-12	10.58 ± 0.16	8-12	10.51 ± 0.09	0.81
5-29	27.25 ± 0.24	25-28	26.79 ± 0.19	24-29	26.87 ± 0.11	1.00
2-3	2.10 ± 0.07	2-2	2.00 ± 0.00	2-3	2.02 ± 0.016	0.15
2-3	2.28 ± 0.10	2-3	2.21 ± 0.09	2-3	2.18 ± 0.04	0.39
2-5	3.72 ± 0.15	2-4	3.39 ± 0.12	2-5	3.52 ± 0.07	0.63
2-3	2.08 ± 0.06	1-3	2.00 ± 0.05	1-3	2.01 ± 0.025	0.23
15-19	16.95 ± 0.24	15-20	17.00 ± 0.32	15-20	17.00 ± 0.12	1.06
4-5	4.90 ± 0.07	5-5	5.00 ± 0.00	4-5	4.98 ± 0.016	0.15

Kirovakan; 17088 (7) Papanino near Dilizhan; ZIA (8) Privolnoe, Volchi Vorota pass; (2) around Leninakan; (11) Shamlug, Alaverd region; and (4) Sevkar, Idzhevan region. Georgia: ZIL 17486 (3) Tabaruki near Tbilisi; 17458 (21) Manglisi; 17458 (10) Atensk gorge at village Niahnee Boshuri; 17736 (4) gorge of Khrama River around Tsalka; 17802 (2) gorge of Khrama River around Tsalka; 17802 (2) Akhalsopali, Tetrtskaroi region; 17896 (5) left bank of Kura River around village Kareli; 17095 (10) around Tsalka; SMG (8) around Kodzhori near Tbilisi; (9) around Tskhneti near Tbilisi.

*Lacerta rostombekovi* Darevsky, 1957  
(Table II E, Fig. 5 C, 57; Photo. 23)

*L. saxicola rostombekovi*, Darevsky, 1957:35, Table 2, Fig. 5. --  
*rostombekovi*, Darevsky, 1966b: 127, Fig. 3C.

Holotype ZIA, Academy of Sciences, Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic 900, ♂, around Idzhevan in northern Armenia, October 1, 1955, collected by I. S. Darevsky.

Description -- The frontonasal is wider than long. The rostral is invariably separate from the frontonasal. The suture between the frontonasal and postnasal is not shorter than that between the anterior and posterior nasals. The sutures between the frontal and prefrontals are not concave. Between the supraciliaries and supraoculars, there is invariably a row of 9-14 granules, doubled at some places. The upper postorbital,