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Annotated Checklist of Amphibians and Reptiles of Iran

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An updated checklist of the herpetofauna of Iran is presented based on records of amphibian and reptile species whose presence has been confirmed in Iran as a result of extensive field expeditions, examination of herpetological collections, literature review, and personal communications from researchers. The herpetofauna of Iran consists of 13 species and five subspecies of frogs and toads belonging to five genera and four families, eight species of salamanders belonging to four genera and two families, nine species and six subspecies of turtles, terrapins and tortoises belonging to nine genera and six families, one species of crocodile, one species of amphisbaenian, more than 125 species of lizards belonging to 36 genera and eight families as well as 79 species of snakes belonging to 37 genera and six families.

Key words: Amphibians, Checklist, Iran, Reptiles.

INTRODUCTION

Although taxonomic and faunistic studies on the herpetofauna of Iran began during the late 18th century (Anderson, 1999), the study of amphibians and reptiles of Iran has undergone rapid progress during the last decades as a result of several factors.

Here just a few pioneering works are mentioned. Among the most comprehensive works done by foreign herpetologists are Anderson's long-term studies on the herpetofauna of Iran starting in 1957 and resulting in publication of The Lizards of Iran (Anderson, 1999). In this monographic work, Anderson focused on the Iranian lizards and explained distribution, systematics, and gave a brief history of all of the then-known lizard taxa. Also, during recent years, some Iranian herpetologists have started more or less comprehensive studies of the Iranian Plateau herpetofauna by publishing books and papers. For instance, Balouch and Kami in 1995 published Amphibians of Iran as the only available reference on amphibians prepared by Iranian herpetologists; Rastegar-Pouyani et al.(2007) published the first Field Guide of the Lizards of Iran; in addition, the late Mahmoud Latifi (1991, 2000) published the most comprehensive work on distribution and toxicology of the Snakes of Iran. Also, the works done by the present first and second authors and their MSc students plus field expeditions and joint researches carried out with European and American herpetologists partnered with these authors resulted in the description of new taxa and reports of new records as

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well as taxonomic changes in the amphibians and reptiles of Iran. In the preparation of the checklist of turtles, our major reference has been Chelonians of the World (Fritz and Havas, 2007) and personal communication with Fritz. A complete and up-to-date checklist of the herpetofauna of Iran should ideally include voucher specimens of all the reported taxa.

Because Spalerosophis diadema subspecies as well as subspecies of Platyceps rhodorachis have been reported from the same localities in Iran, serious questions about their validity remain. Concerning *Spalerosophis diadema*, Khan (pers comun, 2006) has raised the subspecies extending into Pakistan (*Spalerosophis diadema schirazıana*) to a full species. *P. r. rhodorhachis* and *P. r. ladacensis* are mostly regarded today as two color morphs. Taxonomic studies of *Spalerosophis diadema* subspecies and subspecies of *Platyceps rhodorachis* in Iran are in first stages and traditional classification of these taxa is adopted here.

In the present paper, only species whose presence has been confirmed in Iranian territory via extensive field expeditions, examination of collections, literature review, as well as through personal communications with regional herpetologists are listed .

The classification adopted here is mostly conservative, though in some cases new, and to some extent, controversial names have been used. We call attention to nomenclatural controversies through footnotes and by including supporting papers in the bibliography.

CHECKLIST

FROGS AND TOADS[1]

[1] Frost, et al. (2006) have completely revised the phylogenetic nomenclature of amphibians based on molecular studies. Common usage of their generic names has not been established and there is much ongoing controversy over their usage, as application of their names separates many common and widely researched species from the literature. As an aid to introducing the reader to this new taxonomy, we retain the conventional generic names, but utilize the generic names of Frost, et al. as subgeneric names in parentheses.

I. Family Pelobatidae
Genus *Pelobates* Wagler, 1830
Pelobates syriacus Boettger, 1889
II. Family Bufonidae Gray, 1825
Genus *Bufo* Laurenti, 1768
Bufo (*Bufo*) *eichwaldi* Litvinchuk, Borkin, Skorinov, and Rosanov, 2008
Bufo kavirensis Andren & Nilson, 1979
Bufo s. l. ("*stomaticus* Group")
Bufo olivaceus Blanford, 1874
Bufo stomaticus Lutkin, 1862
Bufo (*Pseudepidalea*) *surda surda* (Boulenger, 1891)
Bufo (*Pseudepidalea*) *surda annulata* (J. J. Schmidtler and J. F. Schmidtler, 1969)
Bufo (*Pseudepidalea*) *luristanica* (K. Schmidt, 1952)[2]

[2] Considered a subspecies of *B. surdus* by some authors.

Bufo (*Pseudepidalea*) *oblonga* (Nikolsky, 1896)
Bufo (*Pseudepidalea*) *viridis viridis* (Laurenti, 1768)
Bufo (*Pseudepidalea*) *viridis kermanensis* (Eislt and J. F. Schmidtler, 1971)
Bufo (*Pseudepidalea*) *viridis turanensis* Hemmer, Schmidtler & Bohme, 1978
Bufo (*Pseudepidalea*) *viridis* ssp.

III. Family Hylidae
Genus *Hyla* Laurenti, 1768
Hyla savignyi Audouin, 1812

IV. Family Ranidae
Genus *Euphlyctis* Fitzinger, 1843[3]

[3] Frost, et al. (2006) place the genus *Euphlyctis* in the family Dicroglossidae Anderson, 1871.

Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis (Schneider, 1799)

Genus *Rana* Linnaeus, 1758
Rana camerani Boulenger, 1886
Rana macrocnemis pseudodalmatina Eiselt & Schmidtler, 1971
Rana (*Pelophylax*) *ridibunda ridibunda* Pallas 1771

SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

I. Family Hynobiidae
Genus *Paradactylodon* Risch, 1984
Paradactylodon gorganensis (Clergue-Gazeau&Thorn, 1978)
Paradactylodon persicus (Eiselt& Steiner, 1970)

II. Family Salamandridae Gray, 1825
Genus *Triturus* Rafinesque, 1815
Triturus karelini (Strauch, 1870)

Genus *Neurergus* Cope, 1862
Neurergus crocatus Cope, 1862
Neurergus kaiseri K.Schmidt, 1952
Neurergus microspilotus (Nesterov, 1916)

Genus *Salamandra* Laurenti, 1768
Salamandra infraimaculata semenovi Nesterov, 1916

TURTLES AND TORTOISES

I. Family Cheloniidae
Genus *Caretta* Rafinesque, 1814
Caretta caretta (Linnaeus, 1758)

Genus *Chelonia* Brongniart, 1800
Chelonia mydas agassizii (Bocourt, 1868)

Genus *Eretmochelys* Fitzinger, 1843
Eretmochelys imbricata bissa (Ruppell, 1835)

Genus *Lepidochelys* Fitzinger, 1843
Lepidochelys olivacea (Eschscholtz, 1829)

II. Family Dermochelyidae

Genus *Dermochelys* Blainville, 1816
Dermochelys coriacea (Vandellius, 1761)

III. Family Emydidae
Genus *Emys* Dumeril, 1806
Emys orbicularis persica Eichwald, 1831

IV. Family Geoemydidae
Genus *Mauremys* Gray, 1869
Mauremys caspica caspica (Gmelin, 1774)
Mauremys caspica siebenrocki Wischuf & Fritz, 1997
Mauremys caspica ventrimaculata Wischuf & Fritz, 1996

V. Family Testudinidae
Genus *Testudo* Linnaeus, 1758
Testudo graeca armeniaca Chkhikvadze & Bakradze, 1991 [4]

[4] But see Parham et al. (2006), Fritz et al. (2007) and Sindaco and Jeremčenko (2008).

Testudo graeca buxtoni Boulenger, 1921
Testudo graeca zarudnyi Nikolsky, 1896
Testudo horsfieldii horsfieldii Gray, 1844 [5]

[5] *Agrionemys horsfieldii* of many authors. Le et al. (2006) do not recognize *Agrionemys* in their molecular phylogeny of turtles. Fritz and Havaš (2006) follow its usage, and consider this species basal to *Testudo*. But see Parham et al. (2006).

Testudo horsfieldii rustamovi (Chkhikvadze, Amiranashvili & Ataev, 1990)[6]

[6] Occurs in southwestern Kopet Dag, Turkmenistan and may occur in Iran.

VI. Family Trionychidae
Genus *Rafetus* Gray, 1864
Rafetus euphraticus (Daudin, 1801)

CROCODILES

I. Family Crocodylidae
Genus *Crocodylus* Laurenti, 1768
Crocodylus palustris Lesson, 1831

Amphisbaenians

I. Family Trogonophidae
Genus *Diplometopon* Nikolsky, 1907
Diplometopon zarudnyi Nikolsky, 1907

LIZARDS

I. Family Agamidae
Genus *Calotes* Cuvier, 1816
Calotes versicolor (Daudin, 1802)

Genus *Laudakia* Gray, 1845[7]

[7] Sindaco and Jeremčenko (2008) discuss the taxonomic uncertainties regarding this possibly paraphyletic genus.

Laudakia caucasia caucasia (Eichwald, 1831)
Laudakia erythrogastra (Nikolsky, 1896)
Laudakia melanura lirata (Blanford, 1874)
Laudakia microlepis (Blanford, 1874)
Laudakia nupta (De Filippi, 1843)
Laudakia fusca (Blanford, 1876)

Genus *Phrynocephalus* Kaup, 1825
Phrynocephalus arabicus J. Anderson, 1894
Phrynocephalus helioscopus helioscopus (Pallas, 1771)
Phrynocephalus helioscopus horvathi Méhely, 1894
Phrynocephalus maculatus maculatus J. Anderson, 1872
Phrynocephalus mystaceus galli Krassowsky, 1932 [8]

[8] Golubev and Sattorov (1992) regard *P. mystaceus* (Pallas, 1776) as monotypic. Sindaco and Jeremčenko (2008) recognize the subspecies *aurantiacocaudatus* Semenov and Šenbrot, 1990, but regard *galli* as a synonym of *P. m. mystaceus*.

Phrynocephalus ornatus vindumi Golubev, 1998
Phrynocephalus persicus De Filippi, 1863
Phrynocephalus scutellatus (Olivier, 1807)

Genus *Trapelus* Cuvier, 1816
Trapelus agilis agilis (Olivier, 1804)
Trapelus agilis khuzistanensis Rastegar-Pouyani, 1999
Trapelus agilis sanguinolentus (Pallas, 1814)
Trapelus lessonae (De Filippi, 1865)
Trapelus megalonyx Günther, 1864
Trapelus ruderatus ruderatus (Olivier, 1804)

II. Family Anguidae
Genus *Anguis* Linnaeus
Anguis fragilis colchicus (Nordmann, 1840)

Genus *Pseudopus* Merrem, 1820[9]

[9] On the basis of molecular studies, Macey, et al. (1999) discovered that the genus *Ophisaurus* is paraphyletic. To resolve this paraphyly, all anguines could be placed in *Anguis*, or *apodus* could be transferred to the genus *Pseudopus* and *O. koelkeri* to *Hyalosaurus* (Sindaco and Jeremčenko, 2008).

Pseudopus apodus apodus (Pallas, 1775)

III. Family Eublepharidae
Genus *Eublepharis* Gray, 1827
Eublepharis angramainyu S. Anderson and Leviton, 1966
Eublepharis turcmenicus Darevsky, 1977
Eublepharis sp.[10]

[10] Zarudny (1903) reported collecting specimens of *Eublepharus macularius* (Blyth, 1854) in Khorasan near the Afghan border, but the specimens were lost before they could be deposited in St.

Petersburg. Neither the identification nor the locality has since been confirmed. See Anderson (1999).

IV.Family Gekkonidae
Genus IV *Agamura* Blanford, 1874
Agamura persica (Duméril, 1856)

Genus *Asaccus* Dixon and S. Anderson
Asaccus elisae (Werner, 1895)
Asaccus griseonotus Dixon and S. Anderson, 1973
Asaccus kermanshahensis Rastegar-Pouyani, 1996
Asaccus kurdistanensis Rastegar-Pouyani, Nilson and Faizi, 2006
Asaccus nasrullahi Werner, 2006

Genus *Bunopus* Blanford, 1874
Bunopus crassicaudus Nikolsky, 1907
Bunopus tuberculatus Blanford, 1874

Genus *Carinatogecko* Golubev and Szczerbak, 1981
Carinatogecko aspratilis (S. Anderson, 1973)
Carinatogecko heteropholis (Minton, S. Anderson and J. A. Anderson, 1970)

Genus *Crossobamon* Boettger, 1888
Crossobamon eversmanni (Wiegmann, 1834)

Genus *Cyrtopodion* Fitzinger, 1843[11]

[11] Kluge (1985) demonstrated that *Tenuidactylus* is a junior subjective synonym of *Cyrtopodion*, type species *Stenodactylus scabrum*. See also Anderson (1999). Krysko, Rehman, and Auffenberg (2007) review the history of the confusion surrounding the names of bent-toed geckos. See also Sindaco and Jeremčenko (2008).

Cyrtopodion agamuroides (Nikolsky, 1900)
Cyrtopodion brevipes (Blanford, 1874)
Cyrtopodion caspium caspium (Eichwald, 1831)
Cyrtopodion gastrophole (Werner, 1917)
Cyrtopodion heterocercum heterocercum (Blanford, 1874)
Cyrtopodion kachhense (Stoliczka, 1872)[12]

[12] Sczerbak and Golubev (1986, 1996) do not include Iran in the range of this species, and Anderson (1999) expressed skepticism about its occurrence. There is a single record for Bushehr dating to 1913, which has never been confirmed, although bent-toed geckos of several species have been introduced in port cities in many areas.

Cyrtopodion kirmanense (Nikolsky, 1900)
Cyrtopodion longipes longipes (Nikolsky, 1896)
Cyrtopodion longipes microlepis (Lantz, 1918)
Cyrtopodion russowii zarudnyi (Nikolsky, 1900)
Cyrtopodion sagittifer (Nikolsky, 1900)
Cyrtopodion scabrum (Heyden, 1827)
Cyrtopodion spinicauda (Strauch, 1887)

Cyrtopodion sistanensis Nazarov and Rajabizadeh, 2007
Cyrtopodion turcmenicum (Szczerbak, 1978)

Genus *Hemidactylus* Oken
Hemidactylus flaviviridis Rüppell, 1840
Hemidactylus persicus J. Anderson, 1872
Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus (Linnaeus, 1758) (*sensu lato*)[13]

[13] It is likely that all records of this species in Iran actually are referred to *H. robustus* (Bauer, et al., 2006; Sindaco and Jeremčenko, 2008).

Hemidactylus robustus Heyden, 1827

Genus *Pristurus* Rüppell
Pristurus rupestris Blanford, 1874

Genus *Rhinogecko* de Witte, 1973
Rhinogecko misonnei de Witte, 1973

Genus *Stenodactylus* Fitzinger, 1826
Stenodactylus affinis (Murray, 1884)
Stenodactylus doriae (Blanford, 1874)
Stenodactylus khobarensis (Haas, 1957)

Genus *Teratoscincus* Strauch, 1863
Teratoscincus bedriagai Nikolsky, 1899
Teratoscincus microlepis Nikolsky, 1899
Teratoscincus keyserlingii Strauch, 1863
Teratoscincus scincus (Schlegel, 1858)

Genus *Tropiocolotes* Peters, 1880[14]

[14] Sindaco and Jeremčenko (2008) follow Kluge (1991, 1993) in assigning *helenae, latifi,* and *persicus* to the genus *Microgecko* Nikolsky, 1907. The taxonomy of this genus remains unsettled.

Tropiocolotes helenae helenae (Nikolsky, 1907)
Tropiocolotes helenae fasciatus (Schmidtler and Schmidtler, 1972)
Tropiocolotes latifi Leviton and S. Anderson, 1972
Tropiocolotes persicus persicus (Nikolsky, 1903)
Tropiocolotes persicus bakhtiari Minton, S. Anderson and J. A. Anderson, 1970
Tropiocolotes cf. *steudneri* (Peters, 1869)

V. Family Lacertidae[15]

[15] The nomenclature and phylogeny of the Lacertidae, especially of the large encompassing genus *Lacerta*, has long been in flux. Here we follow the division of the Lacertini proposed by Arnold, et al., 2007, although others (e.g. Sindaco and Jeremčenko, 2008) recognize these taxa only at the subgeneric level.

Genus *Acanthodactylus* Fitzinger, 1834[16]

[16] Harris and Arnold (2000) have authored the most recent analysis of the phylogeny of this genus. Sindaco and Jeremčenko (2008) state that *A. cantoris* likely occurs in SE Iran, but we have no records

to support this assertion.

Acanthodactylus blanfordi Boulenger, 1918
Acanthodactylus boskianus euphraticus Boulenger, 1919
Acanthodactylus grandis Boulenger, 1909
Acanthodactylus micropholis Blanford, 1874
Acanthodactylus nilsoni Rastegar-Pouyani, 1998
Acanthodactylus schmidti Haas, 1957

Genus *Apathya* Méhely, 1907
Apathya cappadocia urmiana (Lantz and Suchow, 1934)
Apathya yassujica (Nilson, Rastegar-Pouyani, Rastegar-Pouyani and Andrén, 2003)

Genus *Darevskia* Arribas, 1997
Darevskia chlorogaster (Boulenger, 1909)
Darevskia defilippii (Camerano, 1877)
Darevskia mostoufi (Baloutch, 1976)[17]

[17] The identity and locality for this species has been called into question by Bosch (1999) and others. The type locality in eastern Sistan-Baluchistan is far east of other members of the genus. This record requires verification.

Darevskia praticola praticola (Eversmann, 1834)
Darevskia raddei raddei (Boettger, 1892)
Darevskia raddei vanensis (Eiselt, Schmidtler and Darevsky, 1993)
Darevskia steineri (Eiselt, 1995)
Darevskia valentini valentini (Boettger, 1892)

Genus *Eremias* Fitzinger, 1834[18]

[18] See Sindaco and Jeremčenko (2008) for currently recognized subgenera.

Eremias acutirostris (Boulenger, 1887)
Eremias andersoni Darevsky and Szczerbak, 1978
Eremias arguta (Pallas, 1773)
Eremias fasciata Blanford, 1874
Eremias grammica (Lichtenstein, 1823)
Eremias intermedia (Strauch, 1876)
Eremias kavirensis Mozaffari and Parham, 2007
Eremias lalezharica Moravec, 1994
Eremias lineolata (Nikolsky, 1896)
Eremias montana Rastegar-Pouyani and Rastegar-Pouyani, 2001
Eremias nigrocellata Nikolsky, 1896
Eremias nigrolateralis Rastegar-Pouyani and Nilson, 1997
Eremias persica Blanford, 1875
Eremias pleskei Bedriaga, 1907
Eremias strauchi strauchi Kessler, 1878
Eremias strauchi kopetdaghica Szczerbak, 1972
Eremias velox velox (Pallas, 1771)

Genus *Iranolacerta* Arnold, Arribas and Carranza, 2007
Iranolacerta brandtii brandtii (De Filippi 1863)

Iranolacerta brandtii esfahanica (Nilson, Rastegar-Pouyani, Rastegar-Pouyani and Andrén, 2003)
Iranolacerta zagrosica (Rastegar-Pouyani and Nilson, 1998)

Genus *Lacerta* Linnaeus, 1758
Lacerta media media Lantz and Cyrén, 1920
Lacerta strigata Eichwald, 1831

Genus *Mesalina* Gray, 1838
Mesalina brevirostris brevirostris Blanford, 1874
Mesalina brevirostris fieldi (Haas and Werner, 1969)
Mesalina watsonana (Stoliczka, 1872)
Mesalina guttulata (Lichtenstein, 1823**)** (most likely occurring in Iran)

Genus *Ophisops* Ménétriés, 1832
Ophisops elegans Ménétriés, 1832 [19]

[19] Many subspecies of this widely distributed taxon have been described and Sindaco and Jeremčenko (2008) list *persicus* Boulenger, 1918 from Iran and *blanfordi* Schmidt, 1939 from the Mesopotamian plain. Until a comprehensive study of specimens from the entire range has been made, we prefer not to use subspecific designations.

Genus *Timon* Tschudi, 1836
Timon princeps princeps (Blanford, 1874)
Timon princeps kurdistanica (Suchow, 1936)

VI. Family Scincidae
Genus *Ablepharus* Fitzinger, 1823
Ablepharus bivittatus (Ménétriés, 1832)
Ablepharus pannonicus Fitzinger, 1823

Genus *Chalcides* Laurenti, 1768
Chalcides ocellatus ocellatus (Forsskål, 1775)

Genus *Eumeces* Wiegmann, 1834
Eumeces schneiderii princeps (Eichwald, 1839)
Eumeces schneiderii zarudnyi Nikolsky, 1900

***Eurylepis* Blyth, 1854**[20]

[20] For separation of the genus *Eurylepis* from *Eumeces* based on molecular grounds see Griffith, et al. (2000) and Schmitz, et al. (2004).

Eurylepis taeniolatus pathianicus (Szczerbak, 1990)

Genus *Ophiomorus* Duméril and Bibron, 1839
Ophiomorus blanfordi Boulenger, 1887
Ophiomorus brevipes (Blanford, 1874)
Ophiomorus nuchalis Nilson and Andrén, 1978
Ophiomorus persicus (Steindachner, 1867)
Ophiomorus streeti S. Anderson and Leviton, 1966

Ophiomorus tridactylus (Blyth, 1853)

Genus *Scincus* Laurenti, 1768
Scincus sincus conirostris Blanford, 1881
Scincus mitranus[21]

[21] Record for Iran is in press: Fahimi, Papenfuss, and Anderson.

Genus *Trachylepis* Fitzinger, 1843[22]

[22] Change in generic name from *Mabuya* based on Mausfeld et al., 2002, Mausfeld and Schmitz, 2003, and Bauer 2003.

Trachylepis aurata transcaucasica Chernov, 1926
Trachylepis septemtaeniata (Reuss, 1834) [23]

[23] See Moravec, et al.(2005) for change to species level. Mausfeld and Schmitz (2003) regard *transcaucasica* as a subspecies of *septemtaeniata.*

Trachylepis vittata (Olivier, 1804)

VII. Family Uromastycidae
Genus *Uromastyx* Merrem, 1820
Uromastyx aegyptius (Forsskål, 1775)[24]

[24] Sindaco and Jeremčenko (2008) say that the subspecies *microlepis* Blanford, 1874 occurs in the part of the species range east of Wadi Araba.

Uromastyx asmussi (Strauch, 1863)
Uromastyx loricatus (Blanford, 1875)

VIII. Family Varanidae
Genus *Varanus* Merrem
Varanus bengalensis (Daudin, 1802)
Varanus griseus griseus (Daudin, 1803)
Varanus griseus caspius Eichwald, 1831

SNAKES

I. Family Leptotyphlopidae
Genus *Leptotyphlops* Fitzinger, 1843
Leptotyphlops macrorhynchus (Jan, 1861)
Leptotyphlops blanfordii (Boulenger, 1890)
Leptotyphlops hamulirostris (Nikolsky, 1916)

II. Family Typhlopidae
Genus *Ramphotyphlops* Fitzinger, 1843
Ramphotyphlops braminus (Daudin, 1803)

Genus *Typhlops* Schneider, 1811
Typhlops vermicularis Merrem, 1820
Typhlops wilsoni Wall, 1908

III. Family Boidae
Subfamily Erycinae
Genus *Eryx* Daudin, 1803
Eryx (Eryx) elegans (Gray, 1849)
Eryx (Eryx) jaculus turcicus (Olivier, 1801)[25]

[25] Based on the examination of an extensive series of specimens throughout its range, Tokar and Obst (1993) have shown that the Caucasus population of *E. jaculus*, described by Eichwald (1831) as *E. familiaris* and recognized by Czarevsky (1916) as a subspecies of *E. jaculus*, is not distinguishable from southeast European-Turkish populations, heretofore referred to as *E. j. turcicus*. Thus, they recognize only two subspecies, the nominate form and *E. j. turcicus*.

Eryx (Pseudogongylophis) jayakari Boulenger, 1888 *Eryx (Eryx) johnii* (Russell, 1801)[26]

[26] Latifi (1991) reported seeing *E. johnii* from Zabol, in Sistan. The name *persicus* Nikolsky, 1907 is not available for a western subspecies of *Eryx johni*, because it applies to a different species of *Eryx* (paper in preparation). If a western taxon related to *E. johni* exists, whether or not it occurs in Iran, it requires a new name.

Eryx (Eryx) miliaris (Pallas, 1773)[27]

[27] According to Tokar (1990, in McDiarmid *et al.* 1999), *E. miliaris* is part of a complex, together with *E. tataricus*, probably a junior synonym and with *E. speciosus*, which should deserve specific rank.

Eryx (Eryx) tataricus (Lichtenstein, 1823)[28]

[28] The populations within Iran need to be clarified as to subspecies. Latifi (1991) provided the following distribution in Iran for the species as a whole: Central Province; Zanjan Province; East Azarbaijan Province; West Azarbaijan Province; Khuzistan Province.

IV. Family Colubridae
Subfamily Colubrinae

Genus *Boiga* Fitzinger, 1826
Boiga trigonatum melanocephala (Annandale, 1904)

Genus *Coronella* Laurenti, 1768
Coronella austriaca (Laurenti, 1768)[29]

[29] Venchi and Sindaco (2006) state that the species is monotypic.

Genus *Dolichophis* Gistel, 1868
Dolichophis caspius (Gmelin, 1779)
Dolichophis jugularis (Linnaeus, 1758)
Dolichophis schmidti (Nikolsky, 1909)

Genus *Eirenis* Jan, 1863[30]

[30] Nagy et al. (2003) propose a phylogeny based on molecular data, allocating the species to four subgenera: *Eirenis* Jan, 1863 (including *modestus* and *aurolineatus*), the new subgenus *Eoseirenis* (for *decemlineatus*), *Pseudocyclophis* Boettger, 1888 (for *persicus*) and *Pediophis* Fitzinger, 1843 (for all remaining taxa).

Eirenis collaris (Ménétriés, 1832)
Eirenis coronella coronella (Schlegel, 1837)[31]

[31] Populations from SW Iran, S Iraq and NE Saudi Arabia cannot be assigned with certainty to any subspecies, although so far considered as belonging to *E. c. coronella*. (Venchi and Sindaco, 2006)

Eirenis decemlineatus (Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril, 1854)
Eirenis iranicus Schmidt, 1939
Eirenis medus (Chernov, 1940)
Eirenis modestus modestus (Martin, 1838)
Eirenis punctatolineatus punctatolineatus (Boettger, 1892)
Eirenis rechingeri Eiselt, 1971

Genus *Elaphe* Fitzinger, 1833[32]

[32] Utiger *et al.* (2002) split the western palaearctic species of *Elaphe* into three genera, reviving *Zamenis* Wagler for four species.

Elaphe dione dione (Pallas, 1773)
Elaphe sauromates (Pallas, 1814)

Genus *Hemorrhois* Boie, 1826
Hemorrhois nummifer (Reuss, 1834)
Hemorrhois ravergieri (Ménétriés, 1832)

Genus *Lycodon* Boie, 1826
Lycodon striatus bicolor (Nikolsky, 1903)

Genus *Lytorhynchus* Peters, 1862
Lytorhynchus diadema gaddi Nikolsky, 1907
Lytorhynchus ridgewayi Boulenger, 1887
Lytorhynchus maynardi Alcock and Finn, 1896

Genus *Malpolon* Fitzinger, 1826
Malpolon insignitus insignitus (Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1827)[33]

[33] Carranza *et al.* (2006) proposed, on the basis of molecular data, to raise to species level the eastern populations of *monspessulanus* assigned to the ssp. *insignitus*, as well as to recognize the validity of the ssp. *fuscus*.

Malpolon moilensis (Reuss, 1834)[34]

[34] Brandstätter (1995) proposed to include this species in the monospecific genus *Scutophis*, on the basis of the microornamentation of the scales.

Genus *Oligodon* Boie, 1826
Oligodon taeniolatus taeniolatus (Jerdon, 1853)

Genus *Platyceps* Blyth, 1860

Platyceps karelini karelini (Brandt, 1838)
Platyceps karelini mintonorum (Mertens, 1969)[35]

[35] Khan (2006) regards *mintonorum* as a color variation of *P. karelini* and not meriting subspecific status.

Platyceps najadum najadum (Eichwald, 1831)[36]

[36] *P. n. atayevi* (Tuniyev & S hammakov, 1993) occurs in the Kopet Dag, Turkmenistan and probably adjoining Iran.

Platyceps najadum schmidtleri (Schätti & McCarthy, 2001)
Platyceps rhodorachis rhodorachis (Jan, 1865)
Platyceps rhodorachis ladacensis (J. Anderson, 1871)[37]

[37] *ladacensis* has been considered a color pattern variation of *rhodorachis* ever since J. Anderson (1895) recognized that this species had already been described by Jan in 1865.

Platyceps ventromaculatus ventromaculatus (Gray, 1834)

Genus *Pseudocyclophis* Boettger, 1888
Pseudocyclophis persicus (J. Anderson, 1872)

Genus *Psammophis* Fitzinger, 1826
Psammophis lineolatus (Brandt, 1838)
Psammophis schokari (Forsskål, 1775)

Genus *Rhynchocalamus* Günther, 1864
Rhynchocalamus melanocephalus satunini (Nikolsky, 1899)

Genus *Spalerosophis* Jan, 1843
Spalerosophis diadema cliffordii (Schlegel, 1837)
Spalerosophis diadema schiraziana (Jan, 1865)
Spalerosophis microlepis Jan, 1865

Genus *Telescopus* Wagler, 1830
Telescopus fallax ibericus (Eichwald, 1831)
Telescopus rhinopoma (Blanford, 1874)
Telescopus tessellatus martini (K. Schmidt, 1939)
Telescopus tesselatus tesselatus (Wall, 1908)

Genus *Zamenis* Wagler, 1830
Zamenis andreanus (Werner, 1917)
Zamenis hohenackeri (Strauch, 1873)[38]

[38] In the past, two subspecies were recognized, the nominate one and *taurica* (Werner, 1898); these were synonymized by Nilson & Andrén (1984).

Zamenis longissima (Laurenti, 1768)
Zamenis persica (Werner, 1913)

Subfamily Natricinae
Genus *Natrix* Laurenti, 1768
Natrix natrix natrix (Linnaeus, 1758)[39]

[39] Following the subspecific concept proposed by Thorpe (1975), only four subspecies are valid: *natrix, cetti, corsa* and *helvetica*. The populations of the Eurasian mainland, North Africa and islands of the eastern Mediterranean Sea are divided into eastern, *N. n. natrix,* and western, *N. n. helvetica*, subspecies (Guiking, et al., 2006). However, subspecies have been described since, and Thorpe needs to be reevaluated.

Natrix tessellata tessellata (Laurenti, 1768)

V. Family Elapidae

Subfamily Elapinae
Genus *Naja* Laurenti, 1768
Naja oxiana (Eichwald, 1831)

Genus *Walterinnesia* Lataste, 1887
Walterinnesia morgani (Mocquard, 1905)

Subfamily Hydrophiinae[40]

[40] *Astrotia stokesii* (Gray, 1846) has been recorded for the Makran coast of Pakistan and probably also occurs in Iran.

Genus *Enhydrina* Gray, 1849
Enhydrina schistosa (Daudin, 1803)

Genus *Hydrophis* Latrielle, 1802
Hydrophis cyanocinctus Daudin, 1803
Hydrophis gracilis (Shaw, 1802)
Hydrophis lapemoides (Gray, 1849)
Hydrophis ornatus (Gray, 1842)
Hydrophis spiralis (Shaw, 1802)

Genus *Lapemis* Gray, 1835
Lapemis curtus (Shaw, 1802)

Genus *Pelamis* Daudin, 1803
Pelamis platurus (Linnaeus, 1766)

Genus *Praescutata* Wall, 1921
Praescutata viperina (P. Schmidt, 1852)

VI. Family Viperidae
Subfamily Crotalinae
Genus *Gloydius* Hoge et Romano-Hoge, 1981
Gloydius halys caucasicus (Nikolsky, 1916)

Subfamily Viperinae
Genus *Cerastes* Laurenti, 1768
Cerastes gasperettii gasperettii Leviton and S. Anderson, 1967

Genus *Echis* Merrem, 1820
Echis carinatus sochureki Stemmler, 1969
Echis multisquamatus Cherlin, 1981

Genus *Eristicophis* Alcock and Finn, 1896
Eristicophis macmahonii Alcock and Finn, 1897

Genus *Macrovipera* Reuss, 1927
Macrovipera lebetina cernovi (Chikin et Szczerbak, 1992)

Macrovipera lebetina obtusa (Dwigubsky, 1832)[41]

[41] According to Venchi and Sindaco (2006), the ssp. *obtusa* Dwigubskij, 1832 includes *euphratica* Martin, 1838, *turanica* Černov in Terent'ev & Černov, 1940 and *cernovi* Chikin & Ščerbak, 1992.

Genus *Montivipera* Nilson, Tuniyev, Andrén, Orlov, Joger and Herrmann, 1999
Montivipera albicornuta (Nilson and Andrén, 1985)
Montivipera latifii (Mertens, Darevsky and Klemmer, 1967)
Montivipera raddei raddei (Boettger, 1890)
Montivipera raddei kurdistanica (Nilson and Andrén, 1986)[42]

[42] Quoted later as a full species by Nilson *et al.* (1999).

Montivipera wagneri (Nilson and Andrén, 1984)[43]

[43] The specific distinctness of *V. wagneri* Nilson & Andrén, 1984 is based only on electrophoretic studies (Joger & Meder 1997).

Genus *Pseudocerastes* Boulenger, 1896
Pseudocerastes persicus (Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril, 1854)
Pseudocerastes fieldi K. Schmidt, 1930
Pseudocerastes urarachnoides Bostanchi, S. Anderson, Kami, and Papenfuss, 2006

Genus *Vipera* Laurenti, 1768[44]

[44] Joger *et al.* (2003) identify five "evolutionary groups (species)" within the *V. kaznakovi-ursinii* complex: 1) *ursinii* including all European subspecies, 2) *renardi* including *eriwanensis* and Central Asian "*ursinii*", 3) *anatolica*, 4) *darevskii,* 5) *kaznakovi* with *dinniki* and *orlovi.*

Vipera (Acridophaga) ebneri Knoeppfler and Sochurek, 1955
Vipera (Acridophaga) eriwanensis (Reuss, 1933)

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