



Figs. 238–239: *Omanosaura jayakari*, Hatta Pools, Al Buraimi, Oman.

F. HULBERT



Figs. 241–242: *Omanosaura jayakari*, Dank, Al Dhahira, Oman.



Figs. 243–244: *Omanosaura jayakari*, eastern Hajar, Oman.

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Omanosaura jayakari (BOULENGER, 1887)
Jayakar's Oman Lizard

Synonymy

Lacerta jayakari BOULENGER, 1887

Omanosaura jayakari – LUTZ, BISCHOFF & MAYER, 1986

Australolacerta jayakari – ARNOLD, 1989

Lacerta (Omanosaura) jayakari – HENKEL, 2003

Range. Endemic to the Hajar Mountains of northern Oman and the UAE.

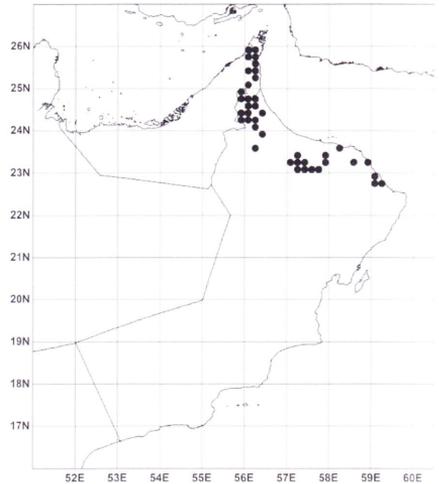
Size. A large lacertid up to about 200 mm SVL. Tail 2.50 to 2.75 times SVL.

Identification. This is the largest lacertid lizard species in the region. These robust, active, diurnal lizards are endemic to the Hajar Mountain range, but within their range they are distributed widely. They vary in colour from a rather uniform, dull, greyish-brown to being covered in bright blue or grey spots. The tail is plain. Animals from Jebel Akhdar and areas further east tend to be less colourful and have finer scaling.

There are eight ventral scales in longest row across the belly, 66–92 smooth or feebly keeled dorsal scales in the longest row at mid-body. Two post-nasal scales, one above the other. Scales along centre of back not enlarged. Scales beneath toes not keeled.

Biology. They are active during the day, and appear to hunt both actively and using 'sit-and-wait' techniques. Actively hunting lizards can be seen moving rapidly over terrain investigating rock crevices, climbing rock faces and into trees and shrubs. They are often fairly fearless towards humans. They eat insects such as beetles, other lizards (e.g., *Pristurus rupestris* and young *Omanosaura cyanura*), but also take plant material such as fruit.

Pairs mate around the year and there is no evidence for hibernation, even in high altitude populations. In captivity they lay several clutches of 7–10 eggs, which hatch after about 110–120 days incubation at 27–30 °C. Karyotype: 2n = 38.



Habitat. Near sea level to at least 2750 m on Jebel Shams. These lizards are found in rocky, mountainous wadis and hillsides with sufficient vegetation. They also inhabit mountain oases. They appear to be widespread and fairly common in suitable habitats, including rock faces, drystone walls, boulder screes, wadi beds, and trees.

Distribution. The Hajar Mountains from the Ru'us al Jibal in Musandam, through the UAE Hajar, Jebel Akhdar to the Hajar ash Sharqi. Records from Quriyat, Jebel Aswad, Jebel Bani Jabir and Wadi Shab suggest this species may occur more widely in these eastern mountains, at least where there is sufficient vegetation. The gaps on the map are likely to represent recording gaps rather than absence. Not recorded from Jebel Hafit.

Pertinent references. ARNOLD 1972, ARNOLD & GALLAGHER 1977, BISCHOFF 2001, FRITZ *et al.* 1991, HARRIS *et al.* 1998 LANGERWERF 1984, LUTZ *et al.* 1986, MAYER & BISCHOFF 1996, SINDACO *et al.* 2010.