

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,

usually does not touch the parietal. The first supratemporal is moderately long, more or less rectangular in outline. Anterior of it there are 2 - 5 usually subequal posttemporals. The midtemporal is large, often divided into 2; it is separated from the first supratemporal by 1 - 3 transverse rows of enlarged scales; similar scales separating it from the large tympanic number 2 - 4. Along the midline of the throat to the collar, there are 21-28 scales. The collar is not serrated. The body scales are smooth, the dorsal ones being slightly smaller than the lateral ones. Around midbody, 47 - 54 scale rows are present. The ventral scales laterally touch 2 or 3 body scales, the posterior of which is usually larger than the others. The ventral scales are arranged in 26 - 29 transverse rows. The anal is large and anterior to it 3 small, subequal preanals are usually arranged symmetrically; the middle of these may be somewhat enlarged. The femoral pores number 13 - 21. On the underside of the thigh, there are 5 rows of tiny scales between the femoral pores and the outer row of large scales.

The scales covering the crus have faint keels or smoothened spinules; they do not exceed the dorsal scale in size. Around the middle of the crus there are 14 - 19 scale rows. The scales on the anterior third of the tail are smooth dorsally and very strongly keeled laterally; the posterior edge of the caudal scales is truncate, rarely projecting posteriorly at an acute angle.

The snout-vent length is 44 - 56 mm. The ratio of body length to unregenerated tail length is 0.50 - 0.70. The chief background color of the dorsum is dirty brownish-yellow, brownish-gray, brownish-beige, brownish-yellow or dark cream. The occipital stripe is formed of irregular blotches and fawnish-brown spots concentrated along the middle of the back and forming a distinct reticular design in some specimens. The temporal stripes are formed of fairly developed dark ocelli, which are partly fused, with whitish (bluish at the level of anterior limbs) centers; narrow ciliary stripes of closely-spaced whitish blotches usually run along the upper edge of ocelli. These tiny blotches are particularly distinct on the neck and on the anterior third of the body. Supramaxillary stripes are barely visible. Specimens with faint occipital and temporal stripes occur. The venter including that of the head and throat is greensish-yellow. Vague bluish blotches stand out prominently in the outer ventral scales. Small, dark spots and blotches occur on the top of the head.

Geographical distribution. The range of this species is confined to the wooded areas of Armenian upland in northern Armenia and north western Azerbaijan. The southern edge extends along the gorges of the Pambak and Agstev Rivers along the southern foothills of the Bazum range from the town of Spitak in the west, continuing farther along the northern

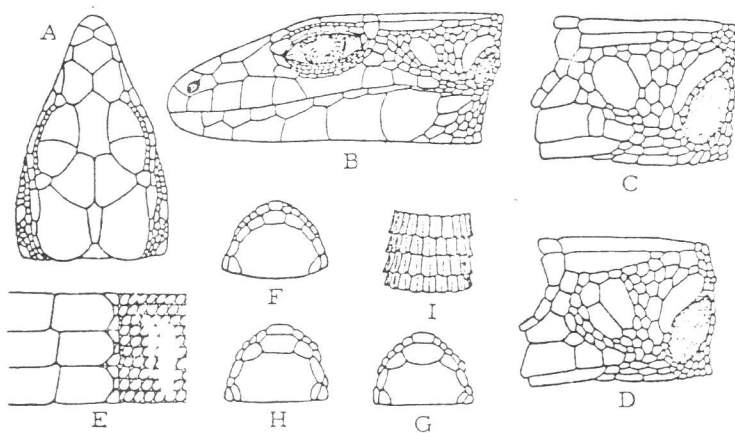


Fig. 57. Major scalation of *L. rostombekovi*.

A - Head, dorsal view; B - head, lateral view; C, D - temporal region; E - contact zone between dorsal and ventral scales; F, G - anal region; I - dorsal anterior third of tail. (G - Gei Gel Lake; rest - Spitak).

slopes of the Marguz and Shakhdag ranges up to around Lake Gei-Gel and the gorges of the upper course of the Giandzhachai and Kiurakchai Rivers in the east. The northern edge of the range extends along the northeastern spur of the Papakar and northern foothills of Murguz ranges in northern Armenia where the northernmost finds are known from around Noemberian, Sevkar, and Shamshadin. At present, the range of the species comprises some isolated populations confined partly to the gorges of the upper course of the Pambak and Agstev Rivers. Another isolated population exists, in addition on the northeastern shore of Sevan Lake around village Zagalu (Tsovak). In all probability this lizard is also encountered at some other points on the northwestern slopes of the Vardenis range adjoining the Sevan basin from the east. In any case, the collection of the ZIL, Academy of Sciences, USSR, contains a sample caught by Zelinskii as early as 1880 around Karavansarai on the way from Martuni to Aiodzor pass (fig. 32, 2). Within Armenia, the range of *L. rostombekovi* is largely sympatric with that of *L. dahli* and partly by *L. armeniaca* and *L. unisexualis*. Sympatry with *L.s. portschinskii* and *L.s. raddei* is also known.

Geographical variation. Samples were examined from 3 isolated parthenogenetic populations separated from north to southeast by distances of 140 and 65 km (Table 24). Though the phenotypic variation within each individual sample is very small, on the whole, all of them differ considerably from each other; this is especially true of lizards from around Lake Gei-Gel in northwestern Azerbaijan; It is interesting that a significant negative deviation occurs in this sample with respect

Table 24

Geographical variation of *Lacerta rostombekovi*

Indices	Around Spitak town (northern Armenia) N = 33 ♀♀			Around village Zogalu, northeastern shore of Sevan lake (Armenia), (N = 11) ♀♀			Around Gal-Gel lake (northwestern Azer- baijan), N = 13 ♀♀			Subspecies as a whole, N = 57		
	Range of variation	M ± m	Range of variation	M ± m	Range of variation	M ± m	Range of variation	M ± m	Range of variation	M ± m	e	
1	44-56	50.55 ± 0.62	50-55	53.00 ± 0.69	50-55	52.64 ± 0.47	44-56	51.50 ± 0.42	3.14			
2	71-98	84.78 ± 4.76	84-101	90.33 ± 5.34	87-100	93.88 ± 4.93	71-101	87.92 ± 4.42	8.39			
3	0.51-0.70	0.60 ± 0.01	0.52-0.63	0.58 ± 0.03	0.50-0.59	0.55 ± 0.01	0.50-0.70	0.58 ± 0.007	0.056			
4	48-51	50.88 ± 0.28	47-50	48.54 ± 0.28	49-53	50.85 ± 0.35	47-51	50.42 ± 0.22	1.65			
5	23-28	25.42 ± 0.24	21-27	23.91 ± 0.48	21-27	24.46 ± 0.42	21-28	24.91 ± 0.20	1.58			
6	13-19	16.15 ± 0.22	15-17	16.09 ± 0.20	16-21	17.46 ± 0.29	13-21	16.45 ± 0.17	1.24			
7	10-14	11.62 ± 0.15	9-12	11.41 ± 0.22	11-14	12.62 ± 0.27	9-14	11.81 ± 0.17	1.28			
8	26-29	27.85 ± 0.11	26-29	28.48 ± 0.26	27-29	28.23 ± 0.20	26-29	28.00 ± 0.09	0.71			
9	3-3	3.00 ± 0.00	3-3	3.00 ± 0.00	1-3	2.00 ± 0.28	1-3	2.77 ± 0.09	0.63			
10	3-3	2.77 ± 0.11	2-3	2.77 ± 0.13	2-3	2.62 ± 0.13	2-4	2.74 ± 0.07	0.56			
11	2-4	3.27 ± 0.09	3-4	3.36 ± 0.15	3-3	3.42 ± 0.16	2-5	3.32 ± 0.06	0.51			
12	2-5	2.82 ± 0.07	2-3	2.86 ± 0.10	2-3	2.50 ± 0.14	2-5	2.75 ± 0.05	0.43			
13	2-3	2.82 ± 0.07	2-3	2.86 ± 0.10	2-3	2.50 ± 0.14	2-3	2.75 ± 0.05	0.43			
14	15-18	16.36 ± 0.10	14-16	15.27 ± 0.20	15-17	15.77 ± 0.12	14-18	16.62 ± 0.09	0.72			
15	5-5	5.00 ± 0.00	5-5	5.00 ± 0.00	5-5	5.00 ± 0.00	5-5	5.00 ± 0.00	0.00			

to such a specific character as the number of enlarged preanals (character 10) and is not the result of a reduction of the number of scales themselves, but due to an increase in the size of the middle one which is normally characteristic of L. s. portschinskii, a near bisexual form. There is also a similarity with the latter lizard from Azerbaijan populations with respect to the greater number of femoral pores. As may be seen from fig. 58, the maximum body dimension occurs in specimens from the high-mountain populations on the shore of Lake Sevan, this being associated with the high elevation of their habitat above the sea level.

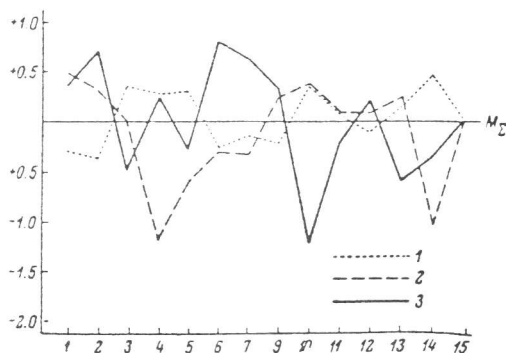


Fig. 58. Summary graph of variation of L. rostombekovi,
1 - Spitak; 2 - Zagalu; 3 - Lake Gei-Gel.

Comparative notes. In many morphological characteristics, the parthenogenetic L. rostombekovi is very similar to the bisexual subspecies L. s. portschinskii forming with it a pair of genetically related forms in the same manner as L. s. nairensis and L. unisexualis.

Specimens examined. Armenia: ZIL 16678 (18), gorge of Debed River around Spitak town; T6911 (4), Papanino around Dilizhan; 17099 (11), around Kirovakan; 17455 (4), Zagalu, northeastern shore of Lake Sevan; 17785 (15); Spitak; 17791 (7), Zagalu, shore of Lake Sevan; ZIA, (6), around Idzhevan. Azerbaijan; ZIL 17510 (6), around Lake Gei-Gel, Kirovabad region.

Lacerta unisexualis Darevsky
(Table II C, Fig. 59; Photo. 7)

L. saxicola defilippii, Chernov, 1939:111; Darevsky, 1957:28.--
saxicola defilippii (parthenogenetic race), Darevsky and Kulikova, 1961:
153; Darevsky, 1962:402.-- unisexualis, Darevsky, 1966b:148, Plate 1,
Fig. 21.