

Eremias persica BLANFORD, 1874
Persian Racerunner

Global range: Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

Distribution in Iran: Provinces of Alborz, East Azerbaijan, Fars, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kerman, North Khorasan, Razavi Khorasan, South Khorasan, Kurdistan, Markazi, Qazvin, Qom, Semnan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Tehran, Yazd, and Zanjan.

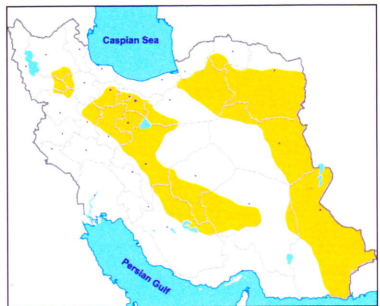




Fig. 235:
Juvenile *Eremias persica* with four
dark longitudinal stripes on its back.
The tail has a blue underside in some
immature specimens.
Kusha DAB



Fig. 236: *Eremias persica*. Note continuous, brownish-yellow dorsolateral stripe with one or two rows of white markings (in both mature and juveniles specimens). In adults, the parallel stripes present in juveniles are broken into blotches aligned in four longitudinal rows. Nader KARAMI

Biology: The Persian Racerunner is found in a wide range of habitats. This lizard occupies plains, sand hills and mountain slopes in dry, semi-arid and temperate regions, covered with clayey, gritty and sandy soils, or with a mixture of all these components. The dominant plant genera in these areas are *Ruta*, *Artemisia*, *Tamarix*, *Haloxylon*, *Alhagi* and *Prosopis*. The activity period of this lizard begins after sunrise and lasts for just a few hours each day. In the hot season, it ceases during the warmest hours and starts again a short time before sunset. This species depends on the availability of rodents burrows. The largest populations are found in areas where largest rodent populations occur.

Size: Snout–vent length 98 mm, tail length 168 mm.

Reproduction: Oviparous.

Status: Common.

Conservation status: IUCN: –, CITES: –, National: Non-protected.

Diet: Arachnids and insects.

Activity pattern: Diurnal.