

## An Etymological Review of the Lizards of Iran: Families *Lacertidae*, *Scincidae*, *Uromastycidae*, *Varanidae*

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**Abstract:** The etymology of the reptiles, especially the lizards of Iran has not been completely presented in other published works. Iran is a very active geographic area for any animals, and more especially for lizards, due to its wide range deserts and ecology. We have attempted to ascertain, as much as possible, the construction of the Latin binomials of all Iranian lizard species. We believe that a review of these names is instructive, not only in codifying many aspects of the biology of the lizards, but in presenting a historical overview of collectors and taxonomic work in Iran and Middle East region. We have listed all recorded lizards of Iran according to the order of the scientific names in the book of Anderson, *The Lizards of Iran*. All lizard species and types have been grouped under their proper Families, and then they have been alphabetically ordered based on their scientific binominal nomenclature. We also examined numerous published works in addition to those included in the original papers presenting each binomial.

**Key words:** Etymology, genera, iran, lizards, Middle East, species, taxonomy.

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### INTRODUCTION

According to our knowledge, there is an evident lack of such a reference in the literature about the etymological review on the nomenclature of all up-to-now discovered, collected and recorded lizards of Iran (also for other Asiatic countries). As we mentioned in our previous article, the observation and study of lizards has been long a fascinating interest for at least one of the authors of this article. The book of Anderson, *The Lizards of Iran* (Anderson, 1999) turned our attention to study the lizards more deeply, especially the ones occur in Iran. At the first step we focused on the common English, Farsi and scientific names of the lizards. The published paper of Braun and Mares (Braun and Michael, 1995) provided a substantial template for our idea to accomplish this aim. Then publication of the book "Field guide to the reptiles of Iran, volume 1: lizards" (Rastegar-Pouyani, 2006) guided and facilitated our project. We believe that a review of these names is instructive, not only in codifying many aspects of the biology of the lizards, but in presenting a historical overview of collectors and taxonomic work in Iran and Middle East region.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Taxa:** The listing of lizards of Iran was based primarily on *The Lizards of Iran* (Anderson, 1999), and supplemented with other experience with the species

comprising the fauna of Iran, including *Field guide to the reptiles of Iran*, (Vol. 1): lizards (Rastegar-Pouyani, 2006). We also examined numerous published works in addition to those included in the original papers presenting each binomial, all listed in the reference section. We represent in this article the explanations of the Families: *Lacertidae*, *Scincidae*, *Uromastycidae*, *Varanidae*.

### METHODOLOGY

Taxa are listed in systematic order following; *The Lizards of Iran* (Anderson, 1999). Orders, families, and subfamilies, if appropriate, are given. Genera and species are arranged alphabetically. The authority and date are given after each species name. Whenever possible, derivations of names are given. Original literature also was consulted for explanations of names or for clues in the descriptions. We have listed all recorded lizards of Iran according to the order of the scientific names in the latter book; (Although two species have been left unnumbered in the book, we have included both in the numerical order). All lizard species and types have been grouped under their proper Families, and then they have been alphabetically ordered based on their scientific binominal nomenclature. The lizards were numbered from 1 to 62 within brackets. We have presented current scientific name, the author named the species with the

date, the synonym(s) if present, the English and Farsi [Fa.] names and a main reference especially dealt with that specific species or type. Then we have analyzed all of the Genera and also the epithets as they encountered. The original source of the word roots and their meanings have been mentioned from Greek (Gr.), Latin (L.) or other languages, e.g. Spanish (Sp.), Arabic (Ar.) etc. The additional explanations added if appropriate.

**Etymology of scientific names:**

(1) **Family:** *Lacertidae*

*Acanthodactylus blanfordi* Boulenger 1918, Blanford's fringe-toed lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār-e-angosht rishehdār blānford*],

**Synonyms:** *Acanthodactylus cantoris* Blanford 1876, *Acanthodactylus blanfordi* Das 1996; (Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.*, 2009).

*Acanthodactylus-acan*-, Gr. *akantha* thorn, spine + *dactyl*-, Gr. *daktylos* finger (Maggenti, 2005).

*blanfordi*-This species has been named after William Thomas Blanford (1832 - 1905), member of the Geological Survey of India.

*cantis-cantis* genitive of L. *cantor* singer (Lewis, 1969); referring to animal's cry.

(2) *Acanthodactylus boskianus* Daudin, 1802, Bosc's fringe-toed lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār-e-angosht rishehdār bosk*]

**Synonyms:** *Lacerta boskiana* Daudin 1802, *Acanthodactylus boskianus* R-Pouyani 1999; (Rastegar-Pouyani, 2000).

*boskianus*-Named after Louis-Augustin-Guillaume Bosc d' Antic, French zoologist (Bosc d' Antic, 1792).

(3) *Acanthodactylus grandis* Boulenger 1909, Giant fringe-toed lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār-e-angosht rishehdār bozorg*],

**Synonyms:** *Lacerta boskiana* Daudin 1802, *Acanthodactylus fraseri* Boulenger 1918; (Anderson, 1999).

*grandis*-adjective L. *grandis* meaning 'great, large', and also 'bulky, massive, heavy' (Lewis, 1969).

*fraseri*-Named after Louis Fraser (1810-1866), a British zoologist.

(4) *Acanthodactylus micropholis* Blanford 1874, Persian fringe-toed lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār-e-angosht rishehdār īrānī*],

**Synonym:** *Acanthodactylus micropholis* Das 1996; (Anderson, 1999).

*micropholis*-micr-, Gr. *mikros* small + *phol*-, Gr. *pholis* horny scale Borror, 1988

(5) *Acanthodactylus nilsoni* Rastegar-Pouyani 1998, Nilson's spiny-toed lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār-e-angosht khārdār-e-nilson*]; (Anderson, 1999).

*nilsoni*-Named after Gören Nilson, the zoologist and explorer of amphibians and reptiles of Iran.

(6) *Acanthodactylus schmidti* Haas 1957, Schmidt's

fringe-toed lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār-e-angosht rishehdār-e-eshmā*],

**Synonym:** *Acanthodactylus schmidti* Salvador 1982; (Anderson, 1999).

*schmidti*-Named after K. P. Schmidt, the zoologist and explorer of amphibians and reptiles of Iran.

(7) *Eremias acutirostris* (Boulenger, 1890), Reticulate desert lacerta, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-biyābānī moshabbak*],

**Synonyms:** *Scapteira acutirostris* Boulenger 1887, *Scapteira acutirostris* Das 1996; (Anderson, 1978).

*Eremias*-Gr. *Eremias* is a noun meaning 'solitary devotee', and is related to *Eremia*, signifying 'an isolated place or desert' (Arnold *et al.*, 1978).

*acutirostris*-acut-, L. *acutus* sharpened + *rostr*-, L. *rostrum* snout (Maggenti, 2005).

*Scapteira*-Gr. *skápteira*, feminine of *skaptér* digger, delver (Liddell and Robert, 1885).

(8) *Eremias andersoni* Darevsky and Szczerbak 1978, Anderson's racerunner, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-anderson*],

**Synonym:** *Rhabderemias andersoni* Welch 1983; (Darevsky and Szczerbak, 1978).

*andersoni*-Named after Steven Clement Anderson, the famous zoologist and explorer of Iranian lizards.

*Rhabderemias*-rhabd-, Gr. *rhabdos* rod Borror, 1988 + *Eremias* (see [7]).

(9) *Eremias arguta* Pallas, 1773, Arguta, [Fa. *ārgūtā*],

**Synonyms:** *Lacerta arguta* Pallas 1773, *Podarcis arguta* Strauch 1876; (Ataev, 1988).

*arguta*-L. *arguta* (feminine), *argutus* (masculine) sharp, quick, (compare with English *argute*); past participle of L. *arguere* to argue (Klein, 1983).

*Podarcis*-pod-, Gr. *pous* foot, leg + *arc*-, L. *arcus* arch, bow (Borror, 1988); referring to the arched or bow-shape legs of the species; The final part may be also compared with L. *arca* and *arctus* meaning 'small, short, compact, close, firm, fast', also hence 'muscular power in joints of the limbs' (Lewis, 1969).

(10) *Eremias fasciata* Blanford 1874, Sistan racerunner, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-sīstān (rāh-rāh)*],

**Synonym:** *Rhabderemias fasciata* Das 1996; (Anderson, 1999).

*fasciata*-feminine adjective of L. *fasciatus* banded, bearing stripes; referring to dorsal stripes (Beltz, 2006).

(11) *Eremias grammica* (Lichtenstein 1823), Reticulate racerunner, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-moshabbak*],

**Synonyms:** *Podarcis grammica* Wagler 1830, *Scapteira zarudnyi* Lantz 1928; (Tsellarius, 1977).

*grammica*--feminine adjective of L. *grammus*, from Gr. *gammikós* having lines or geometrical sketches (Lewis, 1969).

*zarudnyi*-Named after Nikolai Alekseevich Zarudniĭ (1859-1919), the prominent zoologist and explorer of fauna in Iran. More than 130 species of mammals,

- birds, reptiles, fish, arthropods, and mollusks were named after him (Bobrinsky, 1940).
- (12) *Eremias intermedia* Strauch 1876, Aralo-Caspian racerunner, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-ārālo-khazarī*],  
**Synonyms:** *Eremias intermedius* Bogdanov 1882, *Ommateremias intermedia* Lantz 1928; (Shammakov, 1970).  
*intermedia* and *intermedius*-L. adjectives meaning *intermediate* (Lewis, 1969); perhaps referring to intermediate size of the species, comparing to other members in the same genus.  
*Ommateremias*-omma-, Gr. *omma* eye + *teremi*-, related to Gr. *téremon* watchful, observant (Liddell and Robert, 1885); referring to the elevated and protrusive eyes.
- (13) *Eremias lalezharica* (Moravec, 1994), Lalezhar racerunner, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-lālehžār*]; (Moravec, 1994).  
*lalezharica*-Named after its type locality in southeastern Iran, Mountain Lalezhar region.  
Note that the original and correct spelling of the place name is as Lalezhar, which has been transposed into Lalezhar! *Laleh-zār* means *a bed or field of Tulips*.
- (14) *Eremias lineolata* Nikolsky 1896, Striped racerunner, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-rāhrāh*],  
**Synonyms:** *Scapteira lineolata* Nikolsky 1896, *Rhabderemias lineolata* Lantz 1928; (Ananjeva *et al.*, 2007).  
*lineolata*-lineol-, diminutive form of L. *linea* line + suffix L. *-at* having Borror, 1988; hence 'having minute lines' on the body.
- (15) *Eremias montanus* R-Pouyani & R-Pouyani 2001, Mountain racerunner, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-kuhestānī*]; (Rastegar-Pouyani *et al.*, 2009).  
*montanus*-L. *montanus* dwelling in the mountains, from L. *mons*, genitive *montis* mount, mountain (Lewis, 1969).
- (16) *Eremias nigrocellata* Nikolsky 1896, Black-ocellated racerunner, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-khāl siyāh*],  
**Synonym:** *Ommateremias nigrocellata* Lantz 1928; (Ananjeva *et al.*, 2007).  
*nigrocellata*-nigr-, L. *niger* black + *ocell*-, L. diminutive *oculus* eye + L. suffix *-at* having (Maggenti, 2005); hence 'black-ocellated'.
- (17) *Eremias nigrolateralis* R-Pouyani & Nilson 1997, Black-sided racerunner, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-pahlū siyāh*]; (Anderson, 1999).  
*nigrolateralis*-nigr-, L. *niger* black + L. *laterālis* belonging to the sides, from L. *latus* wide (Lewis, 1969); hence 'black-sided'; referring to the dark lateral stripes.
- (18) *Eremias persica* Blanfor 1875, AraloCaspian racerunner, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-īrānī*],  
**Synonyms:** *Eremias variabilis* De Filippi 1865, *Eremias velox* Boulenger 1887; (Bogdanov and Vashetko, 1972).  
*variabilis*-L. *variabilis* variable; referring to wide difference in color (usually between males and females) (Cope, 1900).  
*velox*-L. *velox* swift, quick, rapid (Lewis, 1969); compare with English *velocity*.
- (19) *Eremias pleskei* Bedriaga 1907, Pleske's racerunner, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-plesk*],  
**Synonym:** *Rhabderemias pleskei* Lantz 1928; (Ananjeva *et al.*, 2007).  
*pleskei*-Named after Theodore Pleske (1858-1932), a Russian zoologist.
- (20) *Eremias strauchi kopetdaghica* Szczerbak 1972, Kopet dagh racerunner, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-kope dāgh*],  
**Synonyms:** *Eremias velox* Nikolsky 1897, *Eremias strauchi* Lantz 1928; (Szczerbak, 1972).  
*strauchi*-The epithet is named after Alexander Strauch (1832-1893), Russian zoologist.  
*kopetdaghica*-L. suffix *-ic* pertaining to + *kopetdagh*, the Kopet Dagh, (or Fa. *Koppheh Dāgh*), also known as the Turkmen-Khorasan Mountain Range is a mountain range on the frontier between Turkmenistan and Iran, east of the Caspian Sea (Wikipedia, 2010a).
- (21) *Eremias strauchi strauchi* Kessler 1878, Strauch's racerunner, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-estrāch*],  
Synonym: *Eremias velox strauchi* Nikolsky 1915; (Anderson, 1999).  
(See [7] and [20]).
- (22) *Eremias velox* Pallas 1771, Central Asian racerunner, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-āsīyā-e-markazī*],  
**Synonyms:** *Lacerta velox* Pallas 1771, *Aspidorhincus gracilis* Eichwald 1841; (Kupriyanova and Arronet, 1969).  
*Aspidorhincus*-aspid-, combining form of Gr. *aspis* shield, perhaps from Gr. *aspidios* wide + *rhinc*-, Gr. *rhunkhos* (whence *rhynchos*) snout, beak (Partridge, 1966); referring to the shiel-shape snout of the animal.
- (23) *Lacerta brandtii* De Filippi 1863, Brandt's Persian lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār īrānī brantī*]; (Böhme, 1993).  
*brandtii*-Named after Johann Friedrich (Fedor Fedorovich) von Brandt (1802-1879), a German zoologist (immigrated from Russia).
- (24) *Lacerta cappadocica* Werner 1902, Anatolian rock lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār sakhreī ānātolī*],  
**Synonyms:** *Lacerta cappadocica* Bischoff 2002; (Eiselt, 1979).  
*cappadocica*-L. *Cappadocia* an ancient country in extreme eastern Asia Minor + L. suffix *-ic* pertaining to, from (Lewis, 1969).
- (25) *Lacerta chlorogaster* Boulenger 1909, Green-bellied lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār-e-shekam sabz*],  
**Synonym:** *Darevskia chlorogaster* Arribas 1997; (Orlova, 1971).

- chlorogaster-chlor-, Gr. *chloros* (yellow-)green + gastr-, Gr. *gaster* stomach, belly (Maggenti, 2005); hence 'green-bellied'.  
Darevskia-Named after Russian herpetologist Ilya S. Darevsky (1924-2009).
- (26) *Lacerta muralis defilippii* Camerano 1878, Aralo-Caspian racerunner, [Fa. *sūsmār alborzī*],  
**Synonyms:** *Lacerta muralis* De Filippi 1865, *Lacerta saxicola* Eversmann 1834; (Boettger, 1886).  
*muralis*-L. *muralis* belonging to or dwelling on the walls, from L. *murus* a wall (Lewis, 1969); they are often seen laying on the walls, including natural stone wall or house wall.  
*defilippii*-The epithet has been named after Filippo de Filippi (1814-1867), who was an Italian zoologist.  
*saxicola*-saxi-, L. *saxum* stone, cliff, rock + L. *cola* dweller, from L. *colere* to inhabit (Maggenti, 2005).
- (27) *Lacerta media* Lantz and Cyren 1920, Three-lined lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār she khat*],  
**Synonym:** *Lacerta viridis* Khalaf 1961; (Lutzmann, 1998).  
*media*-feminine of L. adjective *medius* middle, half (Lewis, 1969).  
*viridis*-L. *viridis* green (Lewis, 1969); referring to the green coloration on upper body of the male animal.
- (28) *Lacerta mostoufi* Baloutch 1976, Dasht-e-Lut lacerta, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-dasht-e-lūt*]; (Bosch, 1999).  
*mostoufi*-Mohammad Baloutch named this species after Mostoufi in 1976.
- (29) *Lacerta praticola* Eversmann 1834, Meadow lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār-e-chamanzār*]; (Stugren, 1961).  
*praticola*-prat-, L. *prātum* meadow + L. *cola* dwelling, abiding, living in (Lewis, 1969).
- (3) *Lacerta princeps kurdistani* Suchow 1936, Kurdistan lizard, [Fa. *lāsertā-e-ārālo-khazarī*],  
**Synonyms:** *Lacerta princeps* Mertens 1952; (Rykena and Hans, 1986).  
*princeps*-L. *princeps* chief, the most eminent, distinguished, noble (Lewis, 1969); referring to the stately and lofty external appearance of the species.  
*kurdistanica*-Named after its type locality, Kurdistan province or region, in western Iran.
- (31) *Lacerta princeps princeps* Blanford 1874, Aralo-Caspian racerunner, [Fa. *sūsmār zāgrosī*],  
**Synonyms:** *Lacerta princeps* Blanford 1874, *Lacerta princeps princeps* Eiselt 1968; (Anderson, 1999). (See [30]).
- (32) *Lacerta raddei raddei* Boettger 1892, Azerbaijan lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār āzarbāyjānī*],  
**Synonyms:** *Lacerta saxicola raddei* Darevsky 1967; (Anderson, 1999).  
*raddei*-he epithet was named after G.V. Radde who sent the types to Boettger.
- (33) *Lacerta raddei vanensis* Eiselt, Schmidtler and Darevsky 1993, Lake Van lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār-e-daryāche vān*]; (Anderson, 1999).  
*vanensis*-Named after distribution restriction, around the Lake Van, in eastern Turkey + L. suffix *-ensis* belonging to, from.
- (34) *Lacerta steineri* Eiselt 1995, Steiner's lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār-e-estāyner*]; (Anderson, 1999).  
*steineri*-Named after Hans M. Steiner, the zoologist and explorer of amphibians and reptiles of Iran.
- (35) *Lacerta strigata* Eichwald 1831, Caspian green lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār sabz khazarī*]; (Anderson, 1999).  
*strigata*-strig-, L. *striga*, furrow + L. suffix *-at* having (Maggenti, 2005); referring to the furrow-like markings of the species.
- (36) *Lacerta valentini* Boettger 1892, Valentin's lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār-e-vālentīn*],  
**Synonym:** *Lacerta valentini* Darevsky et al. 1984; (Eiselt et al., 1992).  
*valentini*-Named after Dr. Jean Valentin, the zoologist and explorer of amphibians and reptiles.
- (37) *Lacerta yassujica* Nilson et al. (2003), Yassujian lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār-e-yāsūjī*]; (Nilson et al., 2003).  
*yassujica*-The epithet has been named after its type locality, Fa. Yāssūj, a city and restrict name in Iran, the main distribution range of this species.
- (38) *Lacerta zagrosica* Rastegar-Pouyani and Nilson 1998, Zagrosian lacerta, [Fa. *sūsmār-e-zāgrosī*]; (Arnold et al., 1978).  
*zagrosica*-Fa. Zāgros + L. suffix *-ic* belonging to, from; The epithet has been named after the locality of the species, the mountain ranges of Zagros in Iran.
- (39) *Mesalina brevirostris* Blanford 1874, Short-nosed desert lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār biyābānī pūzeh kūāh*],  
**Synonym:** *Mesalina brevirostris* Das 1996; (Bosch, 2001).  
*Mesalina*-Named after mythological *Mesalina*.  
*brevirostris*-brev-, L. *brevis* short + rostr-, L. *rostrum* snout (Maggenti, 2005).
- (40) *Mesalina watsonana* Stoliczka 1872, Persian long-tailed lizard, [Fa. *sūsmār domderāz īrānī*],  
**Synonyms:** *Mesalina watsonana* Murray 1884, *Mesalina pardalis* Blanford 1876; (Das et al., 1998).  
*watsonana*-Named after Watson.  
*pardalis*-L. *pārdalis*, from Gr. *πάρδαλις* a female panther (Lewis, 1969); perhaps referring to the body spots of the species.
- (41) *Ophisops elegans* Menetries 1832, Sneyedlizard, [Fa. *mārmūlak cheshm-mārī*],  
**Synonyms:** *Amystes ehrenbergi* Wiegmann 1835, *Ophisops blanfordi* Schmidt 1939; (Petzold, 1976).  
*Ophisops*-ophis-, Gr. *ophis* serpent + -ops, Gr. *ops* eye (Maggenti, 2005).  
*elegans*-L. *ēlēgans* nice, fastidious, neat, elegant (Lewis, 1969).  
*Amystes*-Perhaps relates to L. *āmystis*, from Gr. *ἀμυστις* (the emptying of a cup) at one draught (Lewis, 1969); perhaps referring to the swiftness and fastness of the species.

- ehrenbergi-Named after Christian Gottfried Ehrenberg, zoologist (Ehrenberg, 1828).
- (42) **Family Scincidae:** *Ablepharus bivittatus* Menetries 1832, Two-streaked snake-eyed skink, [Fa. eskīnk-e-cheshm māri do-cheshm],  
**Synonyms:** *Scincus bivittatus* Menetries 1832, *Ablepharus bivittatus* Gray 1844; (Ananjeva *et al.*, 2007).  
*Ablepharus-a-*, Gr. negative prefix *a-* not + *blephar-* Gr. *blepharon* eyelid (Partridge, 1966); hence 'without eyelid'.  
*bivittatus-bi-*, L. *bis* two, double + *vitt-*, L. *vitta* band, stripe + L. *-at* having (Maggenti, 2005), hence 'two-streaked'; referring to the striated markings of the body.
- (43) *Ablepharus pannonicus* Fitzinger 1823, Asian snake-eyed skink, [Fa. eskīnk-e-cheshm māri āsiyā],  
**Synonyms:** *Blepharosteres agilis* Stoliczka 1872, *Ablepharus festae* Peracca 1894; Mertens, 1952.  
*pannonicus-L. Pannonicus* Pannonian, adjective of *L. Pannōniā* an ancient country name (Lewis, 1969).  
*festae-feminine* adjective in genitive case of *L. festus* merry, joyful (Lewis, 1969); perhaps referring to the swift and movable nature of the species.
- (44) *Chalcides ocellatus* Forskål 1775, Ocellated skink, [Fa. eskīnk-e-khāldār],  
**Synonyms:** *Lacerta ocellata* Forskål 1775, *Seps ocellatus* Günther 1871; (Al-Sadoon, 1986).  
*Chalcides-Gr. chalkidos*, compare with L. *icidicē* a kind of lizard; also compare with Gr. *χαλκιδικῆ* and *χαλκίς* a kind of lizard (Lewis, 1969; Liddell and Robert, 1885).  
*ocellatus-ocell-*, L. diminutive *oculus* eye + L. suffix *-at* having (Maggenti, 2005).  
*Seps-L. seps*, from Gr. *σήψ* a venomous serpent (whose bite occasioned putrefaction) (Lewis, 1969).
- (45) *Eumeces schneiderii princeps* (Eichwald 1839), Red-marked skink, [Fa. eskīnk-e-khāl ghermez],  
**Synonyms:** *Euprepis princeps* Eichwald 1839, *Plestiodon aldrovandii* Defilippi 1865; (Anderson, 1974).  
*Eumeces-Gr. eu-* good, nice + *mec-* Gr. *mekos* length, height (Beltz, 2006); referring to the long tail of the skink.  
*schneiderii-The* epithet is named after Johann Gottlob Schneider (1750-1822), German zoologist.  
*Euprepis-L. euprepis*, from Gr. *euprepés* well-looking, goodly, comely (of outward appearance) (Liddell and Robert, 1885).  
*Plestiodon-plesti-*, perhaps from Gr. *πλεῖστος* the most, a great deal + *-odon*, from Gr. *odous* tooth (Liddell and Robert, 1885; Maggenti, 2005); hence 'having very or multiple teeth'.  
*aldrovandii-Named* after Ulisse Aldrovandi (1522–1605), an Italian naturalist. Carolus Linnaeus and the comte de Buffon reckoned him the father of natural history studies (Wikipedia, 2010b).
- (46) *Eumeces schneiderii zarudnyi* Nikolsky 1900, Zarudny's skink, [Fa. eskīnk-e-khāldār],  
**Synonyms:** *Eumeces pavimentatus* Blanford 1876; (Anderson, 1999).  
*pavimentatus-paviment-*, L. *pavimentum* a floor composed of small stones + L. suffix *-at* having (Lewis, 1969).
- (47) *Eumeces taeniolatus* (Blyth 1854), Ribbon-sided skink, [Fa. eskīnk-e-pahlū khāldār],  
**Synonyms:** *Eumeces taeniolatus* Stoliczka 1872, *Eumeces scutatus* Lantz 1918; (Werner, 1998).  
*taeniolatus-taeni-*, L. *taenia*, from Gr. *taenia* band, ribbon + *lat-*, L. *latus* side (Maggenti, 2005), hence 'ribbon-sided'.  
*scutatus-scut-*, L. *scutum* shield + suffix L. *-at* having (Maggenti, 2005).
- (48) *Mabuya aurata septemtaeniata* (Reuss 1834), Southern grass skink, [Fa. eskīnk-e-ʿalafzār-e-jonūb],  
**Synonyms:** *Euprepis septemtaeniatus* Reuss 1834, *Mabuya aurata* Anderson 1900; (Soorae and Al Hameiri, 2005).  
*Mabuya-modern L. mabuya* a kind of lizard, from American Sp. origin (Webster's).  
*aurata-feminine* adjective of *L. auratus* ornamented with gold, gilded; formed from L. *aurum* gold + L. suffix *-at* having (Lewis, 1969).  
*septemtaeniata-septem-*, L. *septem* seven + *taeni-*, L. *taenia*, from Gr. *taenia* band, ribbon + L. suffix *-at* having; hence seven-banded, striped with seven ribbon (Maggenti, 2005); It seems that it is misnomer, not banded so; 4 dotted stripes present dorsolaterally.
- (49) *Mabuya aurata transcaucasica* Chernov 1926, Transcaucasian grass skink, [Fa. eskīnk-e-ʿalafzār māvarāy-e-ghafghāzī],  
**Synonyms:** *Euprepis affinis* De Filippi 1863, *Mabuya aurata* Anderson 1900; (Anderson, 1999).  
*transcaucasica-Modern L. transcaucasica* trans-Caucasian, region south of the Caucasus mountains.
- (50) *Mabuya vittata* (Olivier 1804), Bridled skink, [Fa. eskīnk-e-logāndār],  
**Synonyms:** *Scincus vittatus* Olivier 1804, *Mabuya vittata* Wettstein 1928; (van der Winden *et al.*, 1995).  
*vittata-vitt-*, L. *vitta* band, stripe + L. *-at* having (Maggenti, 2005).
- (51) *Ophiomorus blanfordi* Boulenger 1887, Blanford's snake skink, [Fa. eskīnk-e-māri blanford],  
**Synonym:** *Zygnidopsis brevipes* Blanford 1879; (Anderson, 1999).  
*Ophiomorus-ophi-*, Gr. *ophis* serpent + L. *moros*, from Gr. *moros* fool, simpleton, related to L. *mōra* delay, hinderness (Lewis, 1969).  
*Zygnidopsis-zygnid-*, a combining form of Gr. *zygnis* a kind of lizard + *-opsis*, Gr. *opsis* view, sight; properly: 'like, similar to' (Liddell and Robert, 1885; Partridge, 1966).
- (52) *Ophiomorus brevipes* (Blanford 1874), Short-legged snake skink, [Fa. eskīnk-e- māri pāktāh],

- Synonyms:** *Zygnopsis brevipes* Blanford 1874, *Ophiomorus brevipes* Boulenger 1887; (Anderson, 1999).  
*Zygnopsis*-zygn-, Gr. *zygnís* a kind of lizard + -opsis, Gr. *opsis* view, sight; properly: 'like, similar to' (Liddell and Robert, 1885; Partridge, 1966).
- (53) *Ophiomorus nuchalis* Nilson & Andren 1978, Plateau snake skink, [Fa. *eskānk-e- mārī kavīrī*]; (Anderson, 1999).  
*nuchalis*-modern L. *nuchalis* belonging to neck, from modern L. *nucha* neck (Maggenti, 2005).
- (54) *Ophiomorus persicus* Steindachner 1867, Persian snake skink, [Fa. *eskānk-e- mārī īrānī*],  
**Synonyms:** *Hemipodion persicum* Steindachner 1867, *Ophiomorus persicus* Boulenger 1887; (Kiabi et al., 1999).  
*persicum*-The neutral of L. *persicus*, belonging to L. *Persia* or *Persis* meaning ancient kingdom of Persia (Lewis, 1969), hence Iran or Iranian Plateau.
- (55) *Ophiomorus streeti* Anderson & Leviton 1966, Street's snake skink, [Fa. *eskānk-e- mārī estrī*]; (Rathor, 1970a).  
*streeti*-The epithet was named after W.S. Street and J.K. Street, the collectors of the types.
- (56) *Ophiomorus tridactylus* Blyth 1853, Three-toed sand skink, [Fa. *eskānk-e-māseī seh angoshtī*],  
**Synonyms:** *Sphenocephalus tridactylus* Blyth 1853, *Ophiomorus tridactylus* Boulenger 1887; (Rathor, 1970b).  
*tridactylus*-tri-, Gr. *treis* three + dactyl-, Gr. *daktylos* finger (Maggenti, 2005).  
*Sphenocephalus*-sphen-, Gr. *sphen* wedge + cephal-, Gr. *cephalos* head Borror, 1988
- (57) *Scincus scincus* Linnaeus 1758, Common skink, [Fa. *eskānk-e-mamūlī*],  
**Synonyms:** *Lacerta scincus* Linnaeus 1758, *Scincus scincus* El-Toubi 1938; (Hartmann, 1989).  
*Scincus*-L. *scincus*, from Gr. *σκίγκος* skink, of unknown origin (Klein, 1983).
- (58) **Family:** *Uromastycidae* *Uromastyx aegyptius* Forskål 1775, Egyptian spiny-tailed lizard, [Fa. *āgāmā-e-domtīghī-e-mesrī*],  
**Synonyms:** *Lacerta aegyptia* Forskål 1775, *Uromastyx microlepis* Wermuth 1967; (Bouskila, 1983).  
*Uromastyx*-ur-, Gr. *oura* tail + *mastyx*, Gr. *māstix* whip (Maggenti, 2005); hence 'a spiny whip-tailed', referring to the shape of the species tail.  
*aegyptius* and *aegyptia*-L. *Aegyptius* an Egyptian, belonging to L. *Aegyptus* Egypt (Lewis, 1969).
- (59) *Uromastyx asmussi* (Strauch 1863), Iranian spiny-tailed lizard, [Fa. *āgāmā-e-domtīghī-e-īrānī*],  
**Synonyms:** *centrotrachelus asmussi* Strauch 1863, *Uromastyx asmussi* Mertens 1956; (Richter, 1961).  
*asmussi*-Named after Hermann Martin Asmuss (1812-1859), the professor of zoology at Dorpat. Centrotrachelus-centr-, Gr. *kentron* center + trachel-, Gr. *trakhēlos* neck (Partridge, 1966).
- (60) *Uromastyx loricatus* (Blanford 1875), Mesopotamian spiny-tailed lizard, [Fa. *āgāmā-e-domtīghī-e-beynolnahreyn*],  
**Synonyms:** *Centrotrachelus loricatus* Blanford 1875, *Uromastyx lorlcata* Frynta 1997; (Anderson, 1999).  
*loricatus* (masculine) and *lorlcata* (feminine)-L. *loricatus* armored, clothed in mail, with a hard protective outer layer; derived from L. *lorica* a breast-plate (Gledhill, 2008).
- (61) **Family:** *Varanidae*  
*ranus bengalensis* Daudin 1802, Bengal monitor, [Fa. *bozmajeh bangāl*],  
**Synonyms:** *Tupinambis bengalensis* Daudin 1802, *Varanus monitor* Smith 1935; (Auffenberg, 1981).  
*Varanus*-modern L. *varanus*, from Ar. *waran*, altered from original *waral* monitor lizard (Klein, 1983).  
*bengalensis*-The epithet is named after the main locality of the species, Bengal, in the Indian Peninsula.  
*Tupinambis*-Perhaps named after the *Tupinamba*, a group of extinct Tupian peoples of eastern Brazil.  
*monitor*-an active participle of L. verb *monere* to warn (Lewis, 1969).  
The name *Varanus* (from Ar. *waran* and finally *waral*) comes from a common Semitic root *ouran*, *waran*, or *waral* meaning 'lizard'. It has been suggested that the occasional habit of varanids to stand on their two hind legs and to appear to 'monitor' their surroundings (Sprackland, 1992).
- (62) *Varanus griseus* Daudin 1803, Desert monitor, [Fa. *bozmajeh biyābānī*],  
**Synonym:** *Psammosaurus scincus* Blanford 1881; (Martens and Kock, 1992).  
*griseus*-grise-, modern L. *griseus* gray (Maggenti, 2005).  
*Psammosaurus*-psamm-, Gr. *psammos* sand + saur-, Gr. *saura* (feminine) and *sauros* (masculine) lizard (Partridge, 1966).

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