

On an *Asaccus elisae* (F. Werner, 1895) (Sauria: Gekkonidae) Specimen Collected from the Vicinity of Nusaybin, Mardin

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Abstract: A single *Asaccus elisae* specimen, which was caught from the vicinity of Nusaybin, Mardin in SE Anatolia, was examined morphologically. The previous known locality of the species in Anatolia was Birecik, near Şanlıurfa.

Key Words: *Asaccus elisae*, Morphology, Distribution

Nusaybin (Mardin) Civarından Toplanan *Asaccus elisae* (F. WERNER, 1895) (Sauria: Gekkonidae) Örneği Hakkında

Özet: Bu çalışmada, Güneydoğu Anadolu'da Nusaybin (Mardin) civarından toplanan bir *Asaccus elisae* örneği morfolojik olarak incelenmiştir. Türün Anadolu'da önceden bilinen lokalitesi Birecik (Şanlıurfa)'tir.

Anahtar Sözcükler: *Asaccus elisae*, Morfoloji, Dağılışı

Introduction

Formerly known as *Phyllodactylus elisae* (1), the first report of the species in Turkey was from the vicinity of Birecik (2). Verifying Kluge's (3) claim on some anatomical distinctions of *P. elisae*, Dixon and Anderson (4) assigned *elisae* to a newly erected genus: *Asaccus*. Baran and Gruber (5) identified specimens from Birecik as *Asacus* [sic] *elisae*. In their comparative study of samples from Birecik, Iran, Syria and Iraq, Tok et al. (6) considered these populations to be *Asaccus elisae*. The only known locality of *A. elisae* in Anatolia was given as the vicinity of Birecik by Başoğlu and Baran (7), Baran and Atatür (8) and Sindaco et al. (9). In a recent field study, some *A. elisae* specimens were collected from Harran, a locality approximately 90 km east of Birecik (İ. Baran, pers. comm.).

The present study is on a single specimen collected from Nusaybin, Mardin, a locality almost 290 km east of Birecik. A morphological evaluation is made, the known range of the species is also extended.

Material and Methods

The specimen was caught on the wall of a concrete well near a watering canal of Bahçebaşı Village, north of Nusaybin at 3:00 p.m.

The color and pattern characteristics of the specimen were noted; then it was fixed and put in 70% ethanol.

Material: ZDEU (Zoology Department – Ege University) 39/2001.1 ♂, Bahçebaşı Village – Nusaybin / Mardin, 24.06.2001, leg. D. Cihan.

The necessary measurements were taken utilizing a digital caliper of 0.01 mm sensitivity. The relevant data on the measurement points was given in Tok et al. (6).

Results

Morphology: The first inframaxillary pair of the adult specimen was not in contact, no preanal pores were present but a pair of distinct tubercles lateral to the anal opening was evident. The number of granules between

the tubercles at mid-trunk was variable, varying between 1 and 5. Between the tail granules there were 3-4 scale rows, the regenerated parts of which did not contain tubercles. The distribution of the scales posterior to the internasals were in "B type" (6). The other values relevant to the specimen are given in the Table.

Color and Pattern: Ground coloration of the dorsum was light gray, overlaid with brown maculations. Near the base of the regenerated tail, two brown bands were evident. The venter of the specimen was dirty white.

Conclusion

The Nusaybin specimen was slightly larger than previously measured (N: 8) specimens from Syria (6), had a higher TAI value than those from Iraq (N: 6) and Iran (N: 28), was higher in SL than those from Turkey (N: 59) and Iraq, and had a higher TE count than those from Iraq, but was lower in MEL count than those from Iran. The studied specimen displayed a great likeness to *Asaccus elisae* specimens from Birecik (6) with regard to morphological measurements, pholidotic and color and pattern characteristics. However, while in every specimen from Birecik, Iran, Iraq and Syria the first inframaxillary pair was found to be in contact, in the Nusaybin specimen they were separate.

Table. Morphological data on the Nusaybin specimen.

SVL: Snout-vent length (mm), EO: Ear opening (mm), DTL: Dorsal tubercle length (mm), LTR: Longitudinal tubercle rows, NPT: Number of paravertebral tubercles, TAI: Number of paravertebral tubercles between the axial-inguinal region, SP: Scales posterior to postnasals, SPE: Scales between postnasals and eye, SL: Scales between the 3rd labials, IS: Interorbital scales, TE: Tubercles between the ears, SLT: Subdigital lamellae of the 4th toe, MEL: Mid-eye labials, ML: Mouth labials, MEIL: Mid-eye infralabials, MIL: Mouth infralabials, LV: Longitudinal ventrals, TV: Transversal ventrals.

SVL	EO	DTL	LTR	EO/DTL	SVL/DTL	NPT	TAI	SP	SPE	SL	IS	TE	SLT	MEL	ML	MEIL	MIL	LV	TV
57.06	1.80	1.27	12	1.42	44.93	26	18	5	10	18	20	13	14	9	12	7	10	33	67

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