

*Ablepharus kitaibelii*  
(BIBRON & BORY, 1833),  
at Sinop, north Anatolia

Many studies deal with the herpetofauna of Turkey, but only few refer to north Anatolia (BARAN et al. 1992; KUMLUTAŞ et al. 1998). Despite the lack of records, *Ablepharus kitaibelii* (BIBRON & BORY, 1833) was repeatedly reported from this area (BAŞOĞLU & BARAN 1977; BARAN & ATATÜR 1998; SINDACO et al. 2000). However, evidence from its presence there seems exclusively based on two records from near Kastamonu (SCHMIDTLER 1997) and Küre (SINDACO et al. 2000). Although a number of studies contributed to our knowledge about the distribution of *A. kitaibelii* in Turkey (BARAN 1977; KUMLUTAŞ 1993; KUMLUTAŞ et al. 2005), no further records from north of the central Black Sea Mountains were mentioned or added since.

In this paper the authors report on a record of *Ablepharus kitaibelii* from Sinop, north Anatolia. A female specimen was collected by the first author (Y.E.D.) at Sarıkum (Sinop) Turkey (WGS84: 42°1.09506'N; 34°55.39626'E, 26 m a.s.l.), in the morning on April 20, 2010. The voucher is deposited in the collection of the department of biology at ÇOMU (Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Faculty of Art and Science) connected to ZDEU (Zoology Department of the Ege University) under number 124/2010. Four indistinct dark longitudinal spotted lines extend across the brown dorsum, the venter is pale gray. Three loreals, two supraciliaries, three supralabials in front of the subocular, prefrontal plates not in contact. The ear opening is distinctly visible (diameter 0.15 mm). Three vertical rows of scales between ear opening and 'masseteric'. Number of longitudinal scale rows around mid-body is 19. Total length is 78.4 mm, snout-vent length is 29.8 mm. The specimen is in full accordance with the species description in KUMLUTAŞ et al. (2005).

Three species of the genus *Ablepharus* are recognized from Turkey: *A. kitaibelii*, *A. chernovi* DAREVSKY, 1953, and *A. budaki* GÖÇMEN, KUMLUTAŞ & TOSUNOĞLU, 1996 (SCHMIDTLER 1997). An updated distribution map of the species in Turkey was provided by SINDACO et al. (2000). Regarding morphometric measurements, color-pattern features and pholidosis characters, the specimen agrees with the description given for *Ablepharus kitaibelii* in the literature (BAŞOĞLU & BARAN 1977; KUMLUTAŞ 1993; SCHMIDTLER 1997; BARAN & ATATÜR 1998; KUMLUTAŞ et al. 2005). Moreover, this identification is in best accordance with the known distribution of the species of *Ablepharus* in Turkey (comp. SINDACO et al. 2000).

The Snake-eyed Skink was captured under stones at the forest edge near a meadow in a complex of dunes, lakeside and forest habitats in a broad valley near the sea. The habitat at Sarıkum Nature Reserve is largely in agreement with the descriptions given by KUMLUTAŞ (1993) and KUMLUTAŞ et al. (2005) from other regions in Turkey.

The Sinop coastal area is isolated from southern regions of central Anatolia by the Black Sea Mountains extending in parallel to the Black Sea coast, thereby producing the

more temperate climate of the region. This particular situation of the Sinop region may explain both the recently observed occurrence of *Laudakia stellio* (LINNAEUS, 1758) (GÜL et al. 2010) and of *Ablepharus kitaibelii* in this remote place.

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