

Some rare species of snakes from Turkey

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(With 1 textfigur and 1 table)

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Zusammenfassung

In dieser Arbeit werden die Schlangenarten, die aus der Türkei wenig bekannt sind, taxonomisch und ökologisch untersucht. Für einige Schlangenarten werden neue Fundorte festgestellt und über ihren Biotop kurze Erklärungen gegeben.

This paper is meant to supplement my previous work (1976) on the taxonomy and distribution of Turkish snakes. In that study two species (*Leptotyphlops macrorhynchus* and *Eirenis coronella*) were not discussed adequately, due to lack of material from Turkey. To fill up this gap, I made further excursions in Anatolia and collected some new material which was gathered especially during the years 1975—76. The new collection contains also five more species which are poorly known from this country. They are the following forms: *Eirenis collaris*, *E. persicus*, *E. rothi*, *Elaphe hohenackeri taurica* and *Vipera ammodytes transcaucasiana*.

In the taxonomic treatment of the above mentioned 7 species, the ventrals are counted according to the system proposed by DOWLING (1951). The whole material is deposited at the Museum of Systematic Zoology, Ege University, Izmir (SZE). Further abbreviations are the following:

V = Ventralia

Sq = Dorsal scales

Sc = Subcaudalia

Tl = Total length

Ta. 1 = Tail length

Leptotyphlops macrorhynchus (JAN, 1862)

(Fig. 1, Pl. 1, Fig. A)

Type locality: Sennar, Sudan.

Material: 20 ♂♂ + ♀♀.

120/1975. 1—3 Adacık Köyü, Birecik Urfa 11. 5. 1975 I. BARAN; 125/1975. 1—4 Karahisar Boğazı, Tektek Dağları Urfa 12. 5. 1975 I. BARAN; 135/1975. 1—8 Tekerli

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Köyü, Urfa 12. 5. 1975 I. BARAN; 146/1975 Özmenler Köyü, Kızıltepe Mardin 17. 5. 1975 I. BARAN; 110/1976. 1, 2 Adacık Köyü, Birecik Urfa 16. 5. 1976 M. ATATÜR; 125/1976. 1, 2 Mardin 17. 5. 1976 I. BARAN.

The arrangement of the head plates in the investigated material is shown in Fig. 1. Number of scales surrounding the middle of trunk in one row was found to be 14 in all the specimens. The diameter in the middle of the trunk varied between 1—2,5 mm. In life the animals had a pinkish color. A specimen is shown in Plate I, Fig. 1. The number of subcaudals and body measurements are given below:

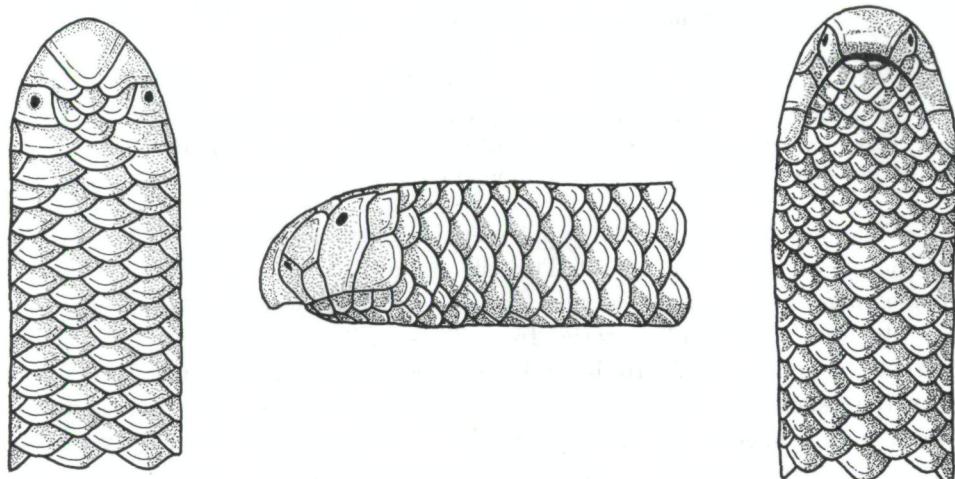


Fig. 1. The head shields of *Leptotyphlops macrorhynchus*. — SZE No. 135/1975.3

SZE No	Sc	Tl	Ta. 1	SZE No	Sc	Tl	Ta. 1
120/1975.1	42	184	23	135/1975.4	42	178	16
120/1975.2	39	202	21	135/1975.5	41	178	16
120/1975.3	39	220	19	135/1975.6	37	190	15
125/1975.1	42	181	18	135/1975.7	43	155	15
125/1975.2	39	178	15	135/1975.8	41	169	14
125/1975.3	42	160	15	146/1975	46	175	18
125/1975.4	39	117	9	110/1976.1	44	170	19
135/1975.1	37	192	14	110/1976.2	42	181	20
135/1975.2	44	181	17	125/1976.1	38	175	15
135/1975.3	39	190	15	125/1976.2	42	160	17

The specimens were collected from the surface of earth or under the stones scattered in the cultivated fields and from the moist ground. Under the stones 2—4 individuals were found coiled around each other, however in some cases single animals were also observed.

Eirenis collaris (MENETRIES, 1832)

Type locality: Bechebermak, near Caspian Sea.

Material: 8 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀.

133/1975 ♂ Tekerli Köyü, Urfa 12. 5. 1975 I. BARAN; 112/1976 ♀ Adacık Köyü, Birecik Urfa 16. 5. 1976 I. BARAN; 115/1976. 1—3 ♂♂, 4 ♂ s. ad., 5, 6 ♀♀, 7 ♂ juv. Kapaklı Köyü, Urfa 17. 5. 1976 I. BARAN & M. ATATÜR; 123/1976 ♀ juv. Mardin 17. 5. 1976 M. ATATÜR; 133/1976 ♂ Derik, Mardin 18. 5. 1976 I. BARAN; 136/1976 ♂ Yanaloba Köyü, Suruç Urfa 20. 5. 1976 I. BARAN.

All of the twelve specimens have 15 dorsal scales in between 70—80th ventrals. Other characteristics are as follows:

SZE No	V	Sc	Tl	Ta. 1	SZE No	V	Sc	Tl	Ta. 1
133/1975 ♂	156	62	309	73	115/1976. 5 ♀	172	57	261	53
112/1976 ♀	170	58	304	62	115/1976. 6 ♀	171	63	261	55
115/1976. 1 ♂	153	62	320	81	115/1976. 7 ♂ juv.	158	60	156	33
115/1976. 2 ♂	157	69	286	71	123/1976 ♀ juv.	173	59	160	30
115/1976. 3 ♂	158	64	289	72	133/1976 ♂	159	68	277	67
115/1976. 4 ♂ s. ad.	157	61	198	44	136/1976 ♂	156	64	246	60

Eirenis coronella (SCHLEGEL, 1837)

(Pl. 1, Fig. B)

Type locality (restricted by SCHMIDT 1939): Syria.

Material: 8 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀.

122/1975. 1—3 ♂♂, 4 ♀, 5, 6 ♂♂ juv. Adacık Köyü, Birecik Urfa 11. 5. 1975 I. BARAN; 134/1975 ♂ Diphisar Köyü, Urfa 12. 5. 1975 I. BARAN; 116/1976. 1, 2 ♂♂, 3, 4 ♀♀ Kapaklı Köyü, Urfa 17. 5. 1976 I. BARAN.

In my previous study (1976) I had no material from Turkey, and the specimens reported in that work originated from neighboring countries (Syria, Iraq, Israel). Besides, the specimens reported from Anatolia by MERTENS (1924) and WERNER (1939) were not available to me, as they were not existent in the museums I had looked for. Hence this new material forms the first collection in our possession.

The photograph of a male is given in Plate I, Fig. B. All specimens have 15 dorsal scales, counted between 60—70th ventrals. Other measurements and counts are indicated below:

SZE No	V	Sc	Tl	Ta. 1	SZE No	V	Sc	Tl	Ta. 1
122/1975. 1 ♂	127	38	206	39	134/1975 ♂	125	41	222	43
122/1975. 2 ♂	131	37	226	42	116/1976. 1 ♂	130	39	263	50
122/1975. 3 ♂	133	38	171	32	116/1976. 2 ♂	127	41	242	47
122/1975. 4 ♀	142	33	172	25	116/1976. 3 ♀	144	32	223	32
122/1975. 5 ♂ juv.	130	37	139	25	116/1976. 4 ♀	145	34	170	25
122/1975. 6 ♂ juv.	127	35	119	20					

Eirenis persicus (ANDERSON, 1872)

Type locality: Bushire, Iran.

Material: 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀.

120/1976 ♀ Kapaklı Köyü, Urfa 17. 5. 1976 V. AKGÖL; 122/1976.1 ♂, 2 ♀ Mardin 17. 5. 1976 I. BARAN.

Some of the pholidosis characteristics of the three new specimens belonging to this species are given below. The dorsal scales (counted between the 90—100th ventrals) were found to be 15. The specimens were caught from under the stones, in a calcareous terrain.

SZE No	V	Sc	Tl	Ta. 1
120/1976 ♀	210	49	333	48
122/1976.1 ♂	203	58	274	49
122/1976.2 ♀	209	51	238	37

Eirenis rothi JAN, 1863

Type locality: Jerusalem, Israel.

Material: 2 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀.

107/1975. 1 ♂, 2—3 ♀♀, 4 ♀ juv., Ürünlü Köyü, Kilis 10. 5. 1975 I. BARAN; 208/1975 ♂ juv. Ürünlü Köyü, Kilis 16. 7. 1975 H. ZEMBİLCİOĞLU; 194/1976 ♀ Olucak Köyü, İslahiye 15. 5. 1976 I. BARAN.

None of the 6 specimens collected from southeastern Anatolia (near the Syrian border) showed any difference in characters from those of *E. rothi*. They had 15 dorsal scales (counted between 75—85th ventrals). Some other characters are summarized in the Table given below. Only one male individual has a single anal plate.

SZE No	V	Sc	Tl	Ta. 1	SZE No	V	Sc	Tl	Ta. 1
107/1975.1 ♂	162	42	196	30	107/1975.4 ♀ juv.	175	34	171	21
107/1975.2 ♀	176	37	248	34	208/1975 ♂ juv.	167	40	133	18
107/1975.3 ♀	181	37	258	34	194/1976 ♀	179	36	254	32

The field trip was carried out at the time when the sky was little cloudy. The specimens were collected from under the stones scattered in olive orchards.

Elaphe hohenackeri taurica (WERNER, 1898)

Type locality: Gülek, Cilician Taurus, Mersin, Turkey.

Material: 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

111/1972 ♂ Belen Hatay 4. 1972; 232/1976 ♀ Kükür Köyü, Anamur Antalya 19. 9. 1976 I. BARAN.

Two individuals were collected from the Taurus Mountains near Antakya and Antalya. The dorsal scales were counted between 90—100th ventrals. Other measurements and counts are as follows:

SZE No	V	Sc	Sq	Tl	Ta. I
111/1972 ♂	203	73	23	738	142
232/1976 ♀	230	64	25	569	89

In my previous paper (1976) the minimum number of ventrals for this species was 218.

Vipera ammodytes transcaucasiana BOULENGER, 1913

Type locality: 120 km south of Tbilisi, Caucasus.

Material: 1 ♀.

233/1975 ♀ Gediağz Köyü, Tokat 1. 8. 1975 I. BARAN.

One male specimen was previously reported from Kösedag Zara (EISELT & BARAN 1970). This is the second report about *V. a. transcaucasiana* which was collected at an altitude of 1300 m. where trees were less abundant. With this record, the range of distribution of this species extends towards the north central part of Asiatic Turkey. However the distributional relationship of *V. a. transcaucasiana* with the range of the other subspecies is still a problem to be investigated by future studies.

Dorsal scales are 21 (counted between 60—75th ventrals). V = 148, Sc = 30, Tl = 543, Ta. I = 45 mm. The living specimen did not show any difference in regard to color and pattern.

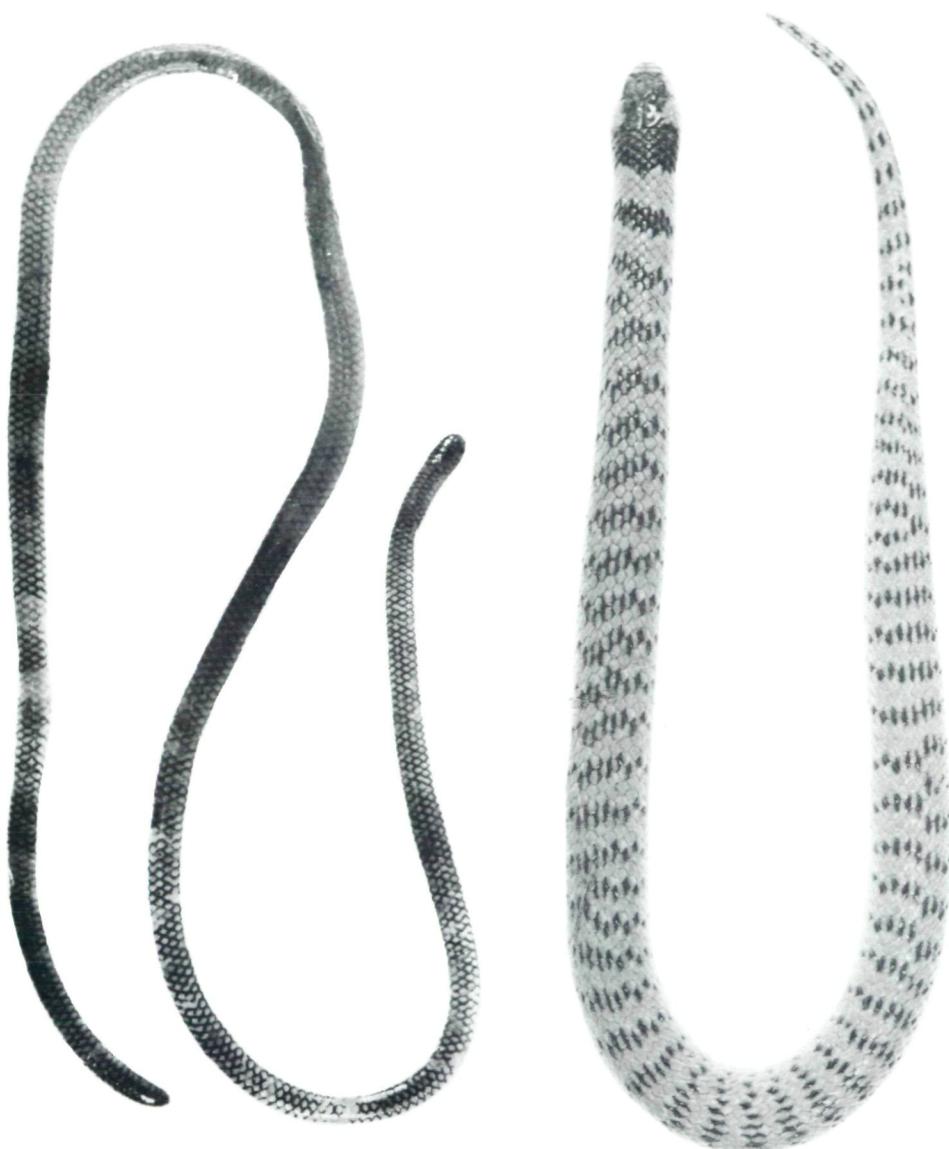
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Explanation of Plate 1

Fig. A. *Leptotyphlops macrorhynchus* (JAN). — SZE No. 120/1975. 1.

Fig. B. *Eirenis coronella* (SCHLEGEL). — SZE No. 134/1975.



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