A new record of the Persian Brook Salamander,
*Paradactylodon persicus* (Eiselt & Steiner, 1970)
(Amphibia: Caudata: Hynobiidae)
in northern Iran

Faraham Ahmadzadeh1,2*, Fatemeh Khanjani3, Aref Shadkam4 & Wolfgang Böhme2

1Department of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management, Environmental Sciences Research Institute,
   Shahid Beheshti University, Evin, Tehran, G. C., Iran
2Herpetology Section, Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig (ZFMK),
   Adenauerallee 160, D-53113 Bonn, Germany
3Department of Habitat and Biodiversity, Faculty of Environment and Energy, Science and Research Branch,
   Islamic Azad University, Ponak, Tehran, Iran
4Department of Environment, Rezvan Shahr, Province Gilan, Iran
*Corresponding Email address: Fahmadza@uni-bonn.de.

INTRODUCTION

The Persian Brook Salamander, *Paradactylodon persicus* (Eiselt & Steiner, 1970) is an endemic and poorly known species of northern Iran (Baloutch & Kami 1995; Kami 1999). It was originally described as *Batrachuperus persicus* by Eiselt & Steiner (1970), but has been transferred to the genus *Paradactylodon* based on genetic studies by Zhang et al. (2006). This species has been reported from two localities only: Weyser, southeast of Chalus, in Mazandaran Province (36° 30' 35" N and 51° 26' 38" E) and Delmadeh village, southeast of Khal Khal, in Ardabil Province (37° 22' 34" N and 48° 47' 35" E) (Kami 2004; Ebrahimi et al., 2004) (Fig. 1). Here, we report a new record of this species in Hyrcanian forest, in Gilan Province, Iran.

RESULTS

During our field survey in June 2010, a single specimen was collected in Dasht-e-Daman Yeylagi, in Rezvan Shahr city of Gilan Province (37° 27' 53" N and 48° 47' 10" E) at an elevation of 1622 m a. s. l. (Fig. 1). This specimen is a subadult (Fig. 2a–b) and it was identified as *Paradactylodon persicus* based on external morphological characters which mentioned by Baloutch & Kami (1995). Because this is a threatened species in Iran (Pappenfuss et al. 2011; Ahmadzadeh & Kami 2009), it was released into the natural habitat after morphological examination. The characteristic features of this specimen are as the following: total length 23 mm; snout-vent length 90 mm; tail length 120 mm; head large, 20 mm in length; vomerine teeth in two arch-shaped rows; snout rounded; fore and hind limbs with four digits; tail flattened laterally, with round-tapered end; dorsal head and body, as well as upper surface of tail brownish with yellow spots and marblings; belly cream without pattern (Fig. 2a–b).

*Paradactylodon persicus* inhabits the mountainous streams and brooks, with cool, fast-flowing water (Baloutch & Kami 1995; Kami 1999; Ahmadzadeh & Kami 2009). Like the Delmadeh habitat in Ardabil Province, the habitat reported here is also located in a non-forestry area (Ahmadzadeh & Kami 2009). The specimen was found under a stone close by a stream on the steep slope of Alborz Mountains, exposed to the Caspian Sea.

REFERENCES

Fig. 1. Map showing the two former valid localities and new reported locality of *Paradactylodon persicus* in Iran.


Fig. 2a–b. *Paradactylodon persicus* from Dasht-e-Daman Yeylagi in Rezvan Shahr city of Gilan Province.
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Fig. 3a–b. The newly recorded habitat of *Paradactylodon persicus* in the Dasht-e-Daman Yeylagi in Rezvan Shahr city of Gilan Province.


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