

On a collection of amphibians and reptiles made by J. KLAPPERICH in Jordan

Über eine Sammlung von Amphibien und Reptilien
aus Jordanien von J. KLAPPERICH

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KURZFASSUNG

Insgesamt wurden von J. KLAPPERICH während der Jahre 1961 bis 1970 in Jordanien 548 Exemplare von Amphibien und Reptilien aufgesammelt. Diese gehören 35 Reptilien- bzw. Amphibienformen an (drei Anuren, 28 Echsen und vier Schlangen), für welche Fundortangaben gemacht werden.

ABSTRACT

A total of 548 specimens of reptiles and amphibians were collected from Jordan during 1961-1970 by J. KLAPPERICH. They belong to 35 species and subspecies of reptiles and amphibians (three anurans, 28 lizards and four snakes) for which record localities are given.

KEY WORDS

Amphibia, Reptilia, Jordan, distribution, locality records, J. KLAPPERICH

INTRODUCTION

A large collection of amphibians and reptiles collected by JOHANNES KLAPPERICH was discovered at the Senckenberg Museum at Frankfurt in 1995. KLAPPERICH was stationed in Jordan during 1956-64 as an expert with the FAO (UN Food and Agriculture Organisation) and later in the Technical Assistance Program of the Federal German Republic provided to Jordan. During his appointment in Jordan, he collected reptiles, amphibians and insects. Most of these collections were sold or donated to European museums.

Due to various constraints, the present data were not published in due time,

otherwise, some records would be considered new to Jordan (e.g., *Cyrtopodion kotschyi*). Within the past few years, the herpetofauna of Jordan was extensively studied (DISI & AMR 1998; DISI et al. 1999, 2001). Despite that this collection does not add new records to Jordan, it does provide additional distributional data and, therefore, should become known to herpetologists interested in the Middle East herpetofauna. The present study includes record localities for 35 species and subspecies of amphibians and reptiles.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of 548 well alcohol-preserved specimens (39 anurans, 505 lizards, four snakes) were examined at Senckenberg Museum at Frankfurt/M., Germany (SMF). Specimens were numbered, recorded and

identified. Additional notes derived from specimens at the Jordan University Museum (JUM) were presented. All localities were revised and coordinates were given according to the Jordan Gazetteer (table 1, fig 1).

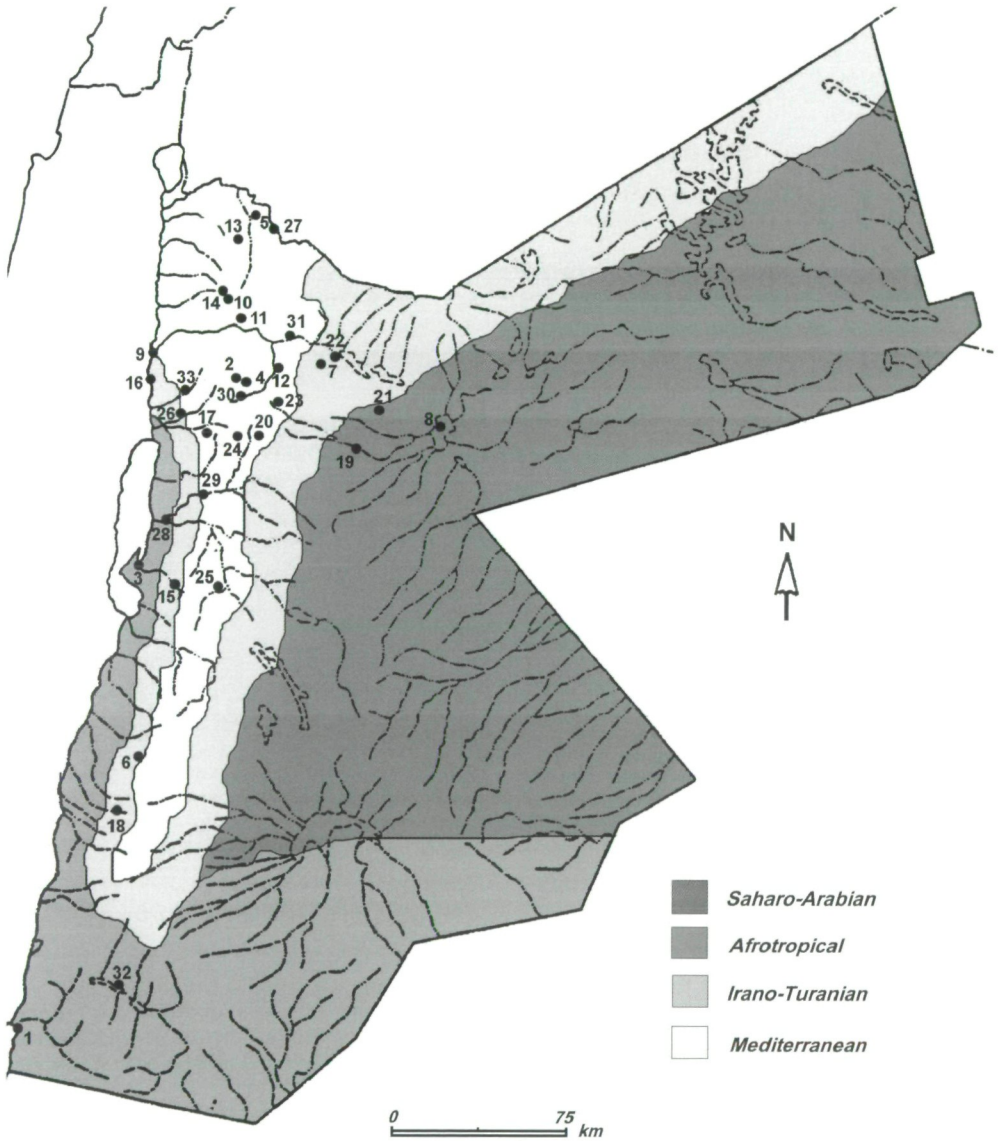


Fig. 1: Map of Jordan, showing the position of the various ecozones (see DISI 1996) and record localities of table 1.

Abb. 1: Karte von Jordanien mit Angabe der Ökozonen (siehe DISI 1996) und der Lage der in Tabelle 1 angegebenen Fundorte.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Bufo viridis
LAURENTI, 1768

Material examined: SMF76135-6, Er Ramman (Zarqa Valley), 13.11.1966. SMF76180, Er Ramman (Zarqa Valley), 28.2.1965. SMF76463, Qasr al Mushatta, 5.1.1968. SMF76468, Wadi al Walla, 24.4.1968. SMF76512, Al Jubayhah, 1.9.1969. SMF76649-50, Ramah, 25.4.1969. SMF76693-94, Ash Shawbak, 22.4.1969. SMF76649-50, Ramah, 25.4.1965. SMF76704, Petra, 21.4.1969. SMF76888, desert near Azraq, 23.8.1968. SMF76929-30, Dayr Alla, 3.2.1969.

Remarks: The Green Toad is a common species inhabiting all types of humid and moist habitats. It was collected from dry arid regions as well as humid and cultivated areas. The taxonomic status of the *B. viridis* complex is debatable and requires further studies. EISELT & SCHMIDTLER (1973) proposed a number of subspecies occurring in the Middle East. WERNER (1987) re-examined the collection made by J. PHILLIPS from Petra, which BARBOUR (1914) considered as *B. regularis* REUSS, 1828, and found that these specimens are actually *B. viridis*.

Hyla savignyi
AUDOUIN, 1812

Material examined: SMF76886, Wadi Shu'ayb, 13.1.1968. SMF76933-4 Dayr Alla, 3.2.1969.

Remarks: The Levantine Tree Frog is a common species with a distribution range extending from southern Turkey, western Iran to southern Arabia. It was previously recorded from several localities along the Jordan Valley, Al-Karak and northern Jordan (BARBOUR 1914; DISI et al. 2001). Presence of water and littoral vegetation are the limiting factors for its distribution.

Rana bedriagae
CAMERANO, 1882

Material examined: SMF76168, Er Ramman (Zarqa Valley), 18.10.1966. SMF

Table 1: Record localities of the amphibien and reptile specimens collected by J. KLAPPERICH in Jordan.

Tab. 1: Fundorte, der von J. KLAPPERICH in Jordanien aufgesammelten Amphibien und Reptilien.

Locality Fundort	Coordinates Koordinaten	N	E
1 Al Aqabah		29° 31'	35° 00'
2 Al Jubayhah		32° 01'	35° 52'
3 Al Mazra'ah		31° 16'	35° 31'
4 Amman		31° 35'	36° 30'
5 Ar Ramtha		32° 34'	36° 00'
6 Ash Shawbak		30° 32'	35° 34'
7 Az Zarqa'		32° 05'	36° 06'
8 Azraq		31° 50'	36° 49'
9 Dayr Alla		31° 42'	35° 37'
10 Dibbin		32° 15'	35° 49'
11 Er Ramman		32° 10'	35° 50'
12 Er Ruseifa		32° 01'	36° 03'
13 Irbid		32° 33'	35° 51'
14 Jarash		32° 17'	35° 54'
15 Karak		31° 11'	35° 42'
16 Karameh		31° 57'	35° 35'
17 Mt. Nebo		31° 46'	35° 45'
18 Petra		30° 19'	35° 29'
19 Qasr al Kharanah		31° 44'	36° 28'
20 Qasr al Mushatta		31° 44'	36° 01'
21 Qasr Amra		31° 48'	36° 35'
22 Qasr Hammam		32° 05'	36° 22'
23 Qasr Umm Hiran		31° 56'	36° 02'
24 Qastal		31° 44'	35° 57'
25 Rab'a		31° 09'	35° 52'
26 Ramah		31° 49'	35° 35'
27 Umm Sirah		32° 32'	36° 09'
28 Wadi al Mawjib		31° 28'	35° 34'
29 Wadi al Wala		31° 34'	35° 43'
30 Wadi as Sir		31° 57'	35° 49'
31 Wadi edh Dhuleil		32° 09'	36° 03'
32 Wadi Ramm		29° 41'	35° 27'
33 Wadi Shu'ayb		31° 54'	35° 38'

76198, Azraq, 19.7.1968. SMF76454-61, Az Zarqa, 21.7.1968. SMF76469-76, Wadi al Walla, 24.4.1968. SMF76931-2, Dayr Alla, 3.2.1969.

Remarks: SCHNEIDER & SINSCH (1999) proved that at least some populations of water frogs traditionally referred to as *Rana cf. ridibunda* in the Near East are conspecific with *Rana bedriagae*. This is a common species found in ditches, pools and watercourses. Details on its ecology are given by BALLETO et al. (1985). Variation in its breeding seasons were observed and attributed to climatic changes.

Bunopus tuberculatus
BLANFORD, 1874

Material examined: SMF76153, Er Ramman (Zarqa Valley), 24.7.1967. SMF 76532, Wadi Ram, 26.11.1969.

Remarks: Reported from Al-Jafr and several localities in arid habitats (AMR et al. 1994; DISI & AMR 1998). ARNOLD (1980) stated that the three forms of the genus *Bunopus* occurring in the Arabian Peninsula are in fact one species, while WERNER (1988) regarded *B. blanfordi* STRAUCH, 1887 as the species occurring in Palestine. Er Ramman is a new locality to the western limits of its distribution.

Cyrtopodion kotschy orientalis
(ŠTEPÁNEK, 1937)

Material examined: SMF76995, Dayr Alla, 26.3.1964.

Remarks: Known to occur in the Mediterranean ecozone in Jordan and Palestine (WERNER 1988; DISI & AMR 1998). This is the first record for this gecko in the Jordan Valley. It is usually found hidden under the bark of trees but also active during daytime (WERNER 1966; FRANKENBERG 1978).

Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus
(LINNAEUS, 1758)

Material examined: SMF76130-32, Er Ramman (Zarqa Valley), 15.10.1966. SMF76139, Er Ramman (Zarqa Valley), 30.10.1967. SMF76167, Er Ramman (Zarqa Valley), 27.7.1967. SMF76161, Irbid, no date. SMF76479-86, Ash Shawbak, 14.11.1969. SMF76502-11, Ash Shawbak, 9.10.1969. SMF76524-5, Ash Shawbak, 25.5.1968. SMF76539, Wadi al Wala, 7.1.1970. SMF76549-53, Al Aqabah, 2.11.1969. SMF 76628, Ash Shawbak, 22.4.1969. SMF 76718-28, Qasr al Mushatta, 27.9.1968. SMF76729, Petra, 31.10.1968. SMF76732, Ash Shawbak, 27.2.1969. SMF76758, Ash Shawbak, 27.2.1969. SMF76759-60, Ash Shawbak, 27.2.1969. SMF76790-3, Qasr al Mushatta, 27.9.1968. SMF76866, Qasr Umm Hiran, 4.4.1968. SMF76868-9, Wadi as Sir, 14.2.1969. SMF76994, Al Aqabah, 5.4.1969. SMF76996-7, Dayr Alla, 26.3.1964. SMF77006, Wadi al Mawjib, 29.3.1969. SMF

77012, Ar Ramtha, 23.4.1968. SMF 77014, Al Aqabah, 5.4.1969. SMF 76897, Er Ruseifa, 3.9.1967. SMF76900-3, Er Ruseifa, 23.9.1967. SMF76924-8, Dayr Alla, 3.2.1969.

Remarks: The Turkish Gecko is a very common species found in most types of Jordan's habitats. It seems that this gecko is well adapted to desert and extreme arid conditions, where it survives in humid refugia. This species is associated with human settlements where it feeds on insects attracted by light near houses.

Ptyodactylus guttatus
HEYDEN, 1827

Material examined: SMF76607, Petra, 21.4.1969. SMF76772-3 and SMF 7696, Petra, 1.3.1969. SMF76878, Ash Shawbak, 22.4.1969. SMF76883, Petra, 31.5.1968. SMF76992, Petra, 19.3.1969.

Remarks: Collected previously from several localities in southern Jordan (WERNER 1971; AMR et al. 1994; DISI et al. 2001). This species is common in the southern Mediterranean ecozone with limited distribution in semi-arid regions. *Ptyodactylus guttatus* is associated mostly with the Irano-Turanian ecozone. However, the exact delimitation of the border between Mediterranean and Irano-Turanian ecozones is rather vague. Surely, it is distributed even in extremely xeric habitats (e.g., bottom of Wadi Arabah and Wadi Ram).

Ptyodactylus puiseuxi
BOUTAN, 1893

Material examined: SMF76689-90, Qasr Hammam, 13.9.1969. SMF76766-7, Qasr al Mushatta, 27.9.1968. SMF76947-51 and SMF76991, Wadi edh Duleil, 10.7.1968.

Remarks: Known from Wadi Aseikhim and Jarash (WERNER 1971). This species is common in basalt rocky areas to the east of Jordan (DISI et al. 1999).

Chamaeleo chamaeleon recticrista
BOETTGER, 1880

Material examined: SMF76129, Al Jubayhah, 10.10.1966. SMF76138, Jarash area, 4.7.1967. SMF76205, Jarash area, 10.

9.1968. SMF76668, Er Ramman, 5.8.1968. SMF76806, Wadi Shu'ayb, 9.2.1968. SMF76989, Wadi edh Duleil, 10.5.1968.

Remarks: The chameleon is a common lizard in densely vegetated areas. The present collection includes records from dry habitats in Wadi edh Duleil.

Laudakia stellio stellio
(LINNAEUS, 1758)

Material examined: SMF76140, Wadi Shu'ayb, no date. SMF76141 and SMF76144, Jarash, 12.9.1966. SMF76462, Jarash, 12.8.1969. SMF76464, Ash Shawbak, 12.8.1969. SMF76477-8, Ash Shawbak, 14.11.1969. SMF76513, Ash Shawbak, 14.11.1969. SMF76546, Wadi al Mawjib, 24.10.1969. SMF76556-9, Ash Shawbak, 9.10.1969. SMF76560, E. Jordan, no date. SMF76579, Ash Shawbak, 14.11.1969. SMF76609-10 and SMF76631-3, Ash Shawbak, 22.4.1969. SMF76631-3, Ash Shawbak, 22.4.1969. SMF76648, Wadi adh Duleil, 20.2.1969. SMF76655-666, Er Ramman (Zarqa River), 5.8.1968. SMF76669, Qasr al Mushatta, 27.9.1968. SMF76673, Qastal, 6.3.1969. SMF76697-99, Qasr Hammam, 13.9.1968. SMF76703, Ash Shawbak, 17.5.1968. SMF76705-6, Er Ruseifa, 6.9.1968. SMF76708-14, Er Ruseifa, 13.9.1967. SMF76716-17 and SMF76737-44, Qasr al Mushatta, 27.9.1968. SMF76746, Ash Shawbak, 25.7.1968. SMF76794, Karak, 30.7.1968. SMF76795-8, Wadi edh Duleil, 10.7.1968. SMF76807, Ash Shawbak, 15.9.1967. SMF76809, Zarqa Valley, 24.9.1967. SMF76908-9, Near Azraq, 23.8.1968. SMF76941-5, Mt. Nebo, 30.8.1968. SMF76963, Wadi al Mawjib, 28.3.1969. SMF76999, Qasr al Mushatta, 27.9.1968.

Remarks: This is a common agama in Jordan. It is associated with rocky areas and stone walls that are prevalent around farm lands and villages. *Laudakia stellio stellio* is distributed in northern Jordan reaching As Shawabk southwards and extends into the Irano-Tiranian ecozone eastwards.

Laudakia stellio brachydactyla
(HAAS, 1951)

Material examined: SMF76465-7, Petra, 20.9.1969. SMF76453 and SMF

76465-67, Petra, 20.9.1969. SMF76555, Petra, 10.10.1969. SMF76561, Petra, 20.9.1969. SMF76608, Petra, 21.4.1969. SMF76707, Petra, 31.5.1968. SMF76715, Petra, 1.3.1969. SMF76730, Petra, 31.10.1968. SMF76799-05, Petra, 31.5.1967.

Remarks: Typical *L. stellio brachydactyla* populations occur in southern Jordan. Other intermediates between the nominotypic subspecies and *L. s. brachydactyla* occur in the southern part of the Jordanian western mountain ranges (DISI et al. 2001).

Pseudotrapelus sinaitus
(HEYDEN, 1827)

Material examined: SMF76914, Petra, 7.5.1968.

Remarks: The Sinai Agama is common in Wadi Araba and the basalt eastern desert. Studies on the taxonomic status of these geographically isolated populations led to recent description of *Pseudotrapelus sinaitus werneri*, a new subspecies from the eastern part of its range (MORAVEC 2002).

Trapelus pallidus agnetae
(F. WERNER, 1929)

Material examined: SMF76183-84, Qasr Amra, 19.7.1968. SMF76687-88, Qasr Hammam, 13.9.1968. SMF76700-2, Azraq, 19.7.1968. SMF76911, Qasr Amra, 9.7.1968.

Remarks: This agama is common in dry and desert regions. DISI et al. (2001) studied the type specimen of *Agama agnetae* at the Natural History Museum Vienna (NMW 23340), showing that specimens from Jordan fit very well with *A. agnetae* and considered *Trapelus pallidus haasi* Y. WERNER, 1972 as a junior synonym.

Acanthodactylus boskianus
(DAUDIN, 1802)

Material examined: SMF76190-5, SMF76554, 5.7.1968, SMF76201-4, Qasr Amra, 5.7.1968. SMF76554, Petra, 10.10.1969. SMF76562-3, Petra, 20.9.1969. SMF76567, Al Aqabah, 23.11.1969. SMF76593-06, Qasr Kharanah, 5.4.1968. SMF76696, Qasr Hammam, 19.9.1968. SMF

76696, Petra, 15.3.1969. SMF76747-52 and SMF76778-80, Wadi Ram, 10.10.1968. SMF76884-5, Petra, 1.5.1968. SMF 76915-8, Petra, 26.7.1968. SMF76952, Wadi edh Duleil, 19.12.1968. SMF76959, Al Aqabah, 6.4.1969. SMF76962, Petra, 15.3.1969. SMF76960, Al Aqabah, 6.4.1969. SMF 76976, Wadi Ram, 21.9.1965. SMF76983-7, Petra, 20.9.1968.

Remarks: This species has a wide range of distribution extending from west Africa to Iraq to the east and across the Arabian Peninsula (SALVADOR 1982). Localities indicated above are mostly dry and arid regions with sandy soil and with the least amount of rainfall in Jordan, with the exception of Petra.

WERNER (1986) studied the geographic sympatry of *A. boskianus* and *A. ophiodurus* ARNOLD, 1980 in Sinai and the Negev desert, where both species co-exist. In Wadi Ram similar situation of sympatry may exist among these species. Competition is perhaps reduced by the size differences and deserves further investigation as suggested by ARNOLD (1980).

Acanthodactylus grandis
BOULENGER, 1909

Material examined: SMF76181 and SMF76189, Qasr Amra, 5.7.1968. SMF 76670, Wadi edh Duleil, 19.12.1968. SMF 76671, Qastal, 6.3.1968. SMF76679-86, Qasr Hammam, 13.9.1968. SMF76904, Ash Shawbak, 24.5.1968. SMF76905, Ash Shawbak, 24.5.1968. SMF76910, Near Azraq, 23.8.1968.

Remarks: This lizard is distributed over Jordan, Syria, Iraq and western Iran (SALVADOR 1982). It is found in dry desert habitats. It was collected from Ma'an (HAAS 1943) and from Ain El-Enoquiyya and Tell El-Mukheizin (WERNER 1971).

Acanthodactylus ophiodurus
ARNOLD, 1980

Material examined: SMF76209, Qasr al Kharanah, 5.4.1968. SMF76534 and SMF76548, Wadi Ram, 26.11.1969. SMF 76536-7, Wadi Ram, 7.11.1969. SMF 76564, Petra, 20.9.1969. SMF76566, Al Aqabah, 23.11.1969. SMF76569-71, Petra,

10.10.1969. SMF76753-6, Wadi Ram, 10.10.1968. SMF76771, Petra, 1.3.1969. SMF 76775-7, Wadi Ram, 10.10.1968. SMF 76946, Al Aqabah, 9.8.1968. SMF76970-5, Wadi Ram, 21.9.1965. SMF76980-2, Wadi Ram, 20.9.1968.

Remarks: Known to occur in the Arabian Peninsula, Jordan, Palestine and Iraq (SALVADOR 1982). This species inhabits dry and arid regions as *A. boskianus* (DISI et al. 2001).

Acanthodactylus robustus
WERNER, 1929

Material examined: SMF76208, Qasr al Kharanah, 5.4.1968. SMF76671-72, Qastal, 6.3.1968.

Remarks: This is a rare species with a limited number of collected specimens (DISI & AMR 1998; DISI et al. 2001). It was reported from Syria (DISI et al. 2001), Saudi Arabia and Iraq (SCHMIDT 1930) and from Ma'an in Jordan (HAAS 1943).

Acanthodactylus schmidti
HAAS, 1957

Material examined: SMF76565, Al Aqabah, 23.11.1969. SMF76590-2, Wadi Ram, 21.9.1969. SMF76913, Wadi Ram, 1.1.1969. SMF77010, Wadi Ram, 10.10.1968

Remarks: Reported from Wadi Ram and its vicinity and Hazim (DISI et al. 1999). This lizard is a typical psammophilous species inhabiting sand dunes. It is known from the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq and Iran (SALVADOR 1982).

Acanthodactylus tristrami
(GÜNTHER, 1864)

Material examined: SMF76526, Ash Shawbak, 25.5.1968. SMF76871, Ash Shawbak, 22.4.1969. SMF76906-7 and SMF77000-3, Ash Shawbak, 24.5.1968. SMF77031, Amman, 14.10.1969.

Remarks: Distributed in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan (SALVADOR 1982). This species has a restricted distribution within the Mediterranean ecozone, characterized by high annual rainfall. WERNER (1971) reported on specimens collected near the Jordanian-Syrian border and southern

Amman. Further records are available from Karak, Umm ar Rasas, S Amman and Ras an Naqb (DISI et al. 2001).

Lacerta kulzeri

MÜLLER & WETTSTEIN, 1932

Material examined: SMF76523, Ash Shawbak, 25.5.1968. SMF76588, Ash Shawbak, 9.10.1969. SMF76882, Petra, 31.5.1968.

Remarks: This lizard is known to occur in the Mediterranean ecozone of southern Jordan. Petra is the extreme southern distribution limit for this lizard (MÜLLER & BISCHOFF 1994).

Lacerta media israelica

(PETERS, 1964)

Material examined: SMF76172, Dibbin (Jarash), 2.1.1968. SMF76612-3, Ash Shawbak, 31.5.1968.

Remarks: DISI (1991) recorded this species from northern Jordan. Perhaps Ash Shawbak represents the most southern distribution limit for this lizard. All the habitats of the recorded specimens are within the Mediterranean ecozone.

Mesalina breviostris breviostris

BLANFORD, 1874

Material examined: SMF76162, Ar Ramtha, 31.3.1966. SMF76674-78, Qasr Hammam, 13.9.1968. SMF76953-8, Wadi edh Duleil, 19.12.1968. SMF77027, Amman, 12.8.1968.

Remarks: *Mesalina breviostris* is a common species in dry regions (DISI et al. 2001), however, of rather complex structure as suggested by HAAS & WERNER (1969) and ARNOLD (1986). Different subspecies are known to occur in the area extending from Iran, across the Arabian Peninsula to Syria and Jordan.

Mesalina guttulata guttulata

(LICHTENSTEIN, 1823)

Material examined: SMF76154-61, Karameh, Jordan Valley, 15.1.1967. SMF76541-5, Wadi al Mawjib, 24.10.1969.

SMF76691-2, Azraq, 23.8.1968. SMF76757, Ash Shawbak, 27.2.1969. SMF76919, Petra, 26.7.1968. SMF76964-6, Wadi al Mawjib, 28.3.1969. SMF77028, Ramah, 8.1.1969.

Remarks: This species has a wide range of distribution extending from Yemen in southern Arabia, Jordan, Southern Iraq to Afghanistan through Iran (LEVITON et al. 1992). Known from several localities south and east Jordan (DISI et al. 2001). Karameh, Wadi al Mawjib and Ramah represent new localities for this lizard in the Jordan Valley.

Mesalina olivieri schmidti

(HAAS, 1951)

Material examined: SMF77017, Wadi Ram, 4.4.1969.

Remarks: This lizard is distributed over North Africa, across northern Arabia, Jordan and southern Iraq (LEVITON et al. 1992). In Jordan, this species was collected from several localities in lowland desert and semiarid regions (DISI et al. 2001).

Ophisops elegans

MÉNÉTRIÉS, 1832

Material examined: SMF76177-8, Dibbin (Jarash), 11.3.1968. SMF76214-5, Wadi as Sir, 10.12.1967. SMF76217-8, Amman, 15.4.1967. SMF76226, Wadi as Sir, 26.8.1969. SMF76487-500, Ash Shawbak, 14.11.1969. SMF76652-4, Dibbin, 28.6.1968. SMF77026, Amman, 12.8.1968. SMF76501, Ash Shawbak, 14.11.1969. SMF76514-22, Ash Shawbak, 25.5.1968. SMF76540 and SMF76568, Qasr al Mushatta, 4.1.1970. SMF76572-8, Ash Shawbak, 14.11.1969. SMF76580-7, Ash Shawbak, 9.10.1969. SMF76617-27 and SMF76634-43, Ash Shawbak, 22.4.1969. SMF76644, Amman, 17.3.1969. SMF76645, Rab'a, 8.3.1969. SMF76646, Amman, 12.7.1968. SMF76647, Amman, 24.7.1965. SMF76733-6, Ash Shawbak, 27.2.1969. SMF76745, Ash Shawbak, 25.7.1968. SMF76761-4, Ash Shawbak, 27.2.1969. SMF76765, Qasr al Mushatta, 27.9.1968. SMF76782-9, Qasr al Mushatta, 27.9.1968. SMF76768-9, Ash Shawbak, 30.10.1968. SMF76808, Wadi edh Duleil, 20.2.1969. SMF

7687, Ash Shawbak, 22.4.1969. SMF 76895, Ash Shawbak, 17.5.1968. SMF 76898-9, Rosifa, 13.9.1967. SMF76935-40, Wadi as Sir, 6.4.1968. SMF76993, Amman, 15.4.1969. SMF77015-6, Amman, no date. SMF 77029-30, Amman, 14.10.1969. SMF 76175, Dibbin (Jarash), no date. SMF 76176, Er Romman (Zarka Valley), 24.2.1968. SMF76227-28, Jarash, no date. SMF76487-501, Ash Shawbak, 14.11.1969. SMF76652-54, Dibbin, 28.6.1968. SMF 76667, Er Ramman, 5.8.1968. SMF77026, Amman, 12.8.1968.

Remarks: This is a very common lizard in Jordan. It is mainly found in cultivated and open fields in the Mediterranean ecozone. However, specimens were also collected from dry arid regions bordering the eastern desert. HAAS (1951) stated that little value should be addressed to the differences between the varieties of *O. elegans*. Since there is no distinct geographical isolation between the two known forms; *O. elegans ehrenbergi* WIEGMANN, 1835 and *O. elegans blanfordi* SCHMIDT, 1939. We believe that the slight morphological differences are merely variations within the population.

Ablepharus rueppellii festae
PERACCA, 1894

Material examined: SMF76142-43, Dibbin, 2.1.1968. SMF76864, Dibbin, 22.3.1968. SMF76887, Karak, 6.3.1968.

Remarks: This is a rather common species in forested habitats. Other specimens at the JUM are from Salt, Aqraba and Ajlun.

Chalcides guentheri
BOULENGER, 1887

Material examined: SMF76589, Dibbin, 4.4.1968.

Remarks: Previously collected from Kufr Alma and from Al-Shajara, northern Jordan (DISI 1991). The distribution of this skink is restricted to the Mediterranean ecozone. WERNER (1988) indicated that *C. guentheri* is endemic to northern Israel and may extend to Lebanon. Known to occur in Palestine and Syria (BERGER-DELL MOUR 1986; WERNER 1988).

Chalcides ocellatus ocellatus
(FORSSKÅL, 1775)

Material examined: SMF76134, Karameh (Jordan Valley), 15.1.1967. SMF 76873, Ash Shawbak, 22.4.1969. SMF 76967-9, Wadi al Mawjib, 28.3.1969. SMF 77004-5, Qasr al Mushatta, 27.9.1968. SMF77007, Wadi al Mawjib, 29.3.1969. SMF77008-9, Al Mazra'ah, 6.1.1969.

Remarks: Collected from Al Aqabah, Amman and El-Hemma (WERNER 1971). *Chalcides o. ocellatus* was encountered in different areas characterised by damp ground (DISI & AMR 1998). It was also found to inhabit extreme desert conditions (DISI et al. 2001).

Eumeces schneideri schneideri
(DAUDIN, 1802)

Material examined: SMF76451, Petra, 20.9.1969. SMF76998, Qasr Umm Hiran, 13.9.1968.

Remarks: DISI et al. (2001) indicated that three subspecies may occur in Jordan; *E. schneideri schneideri* in the southwest, *E. schneideri pavimentatus* (G. ST. HILAIRE, 1827) in the northwest and *E. schneideri princeps* (EICHWALD, 1839) in the eastern desert.

Mabuya vittata
(OLIVIER, 1804)

Material examined: SMF76133, Er Ramman (Zarqa Valley), 15.3.1967. SMF 76147-50, Er Ramman (Zarka Valley), 9.3.1967. SMF76614-6, Dayr Alla, 26.3.1969. SMF76629-30, Ash Shawbak, 22.4.1969. SMF76731, Petra, 27.2.1969. SMF76757 and SMF76731, Ash Shawbak, 27.2.1969. SMF76770, Ash Shawbak, 30.10.1968. SMF76874-6, Ash Shawbak, 22.4.1969.

Remarks: This species is associated with humid habitats and dense vegetation. It occurs around waterbeds and irrigation canals (DISI & AMR 1998).

Ophiomorus latastii
BOULENGER, 1887

Material examined: SMF76962, Wadi al Mawjib, 28.3.1969.

Remarks: *Ophiomorus latastii* was collected from the Jordan Valley and the

Mediterranean ecozone (DISI & AMR 1998). It inhabits areas where humidity is high. ANDERSON & LEVITON (1966) included a record from Wadi Al-Heidan (Madaba area). This lizard is distributed over southern Lebanon, Palestine, and Jordan. ANDERSON & LEVITON (1966) stated that *O. latastii* is the most specialized species of the genus *Ophiomorus* regarding the head shields. Virtually little is known about the biology of this fossorial species.

Coluber jugularis asianus
(BOETTGER, 1880)

Material examined: SMF76535, Jordan, no date.

Remarks: The Large Whip Snake is a common species in Jordan. DISI (1985) stated that *C. j. asianus* is associated with dense vegetation or farming areas irrespective to the amount of precipitation as suggested by ZINNER (1972).

Coluber nummifer
REUSS, 1834

Material examined: SMF76170, Amman, 15.12.1965.

Remarks: It seems that *C. nummifer* is fairly common in southern Jordan, particularly the Karak area (EL ORAN et al. 1994).

Coluber rhodorachis
(JAN, 1865)

Material examined: SMF76452, East Jordan, 11.7.1968.

Remarks: This whip snake is a desert dwelling species. It was collected and seen during daytime near Petra, El-Disah and several localities in southern Jordan (EL ORAN et al. 1994).

Eirenis rothi
JAN, 1863

Material examined: SMF76166, Amman, no date.

Remarks: This species was collected from several localities covering northern Jordan (DISI et al. 1988, 2001). The distribution of *E. rothi* is confined to the Mediterranean ecozone.

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