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KEY WORDS: Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae: *Echinantera undulata*, new country record, morphology, similar species, Ecuador

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First record of *Malpolon monspessulanus* (HERMANN, 1804) from the island of Corsica (France)

In southern Europe, *Malpolon monspessulanus* (HERMANN, 1804) exhibits a wide geographic distribution which is comprised of three main portions (HAAN 1999): (1) western portion (Iberian Peninsula through SE France to NW Italy); (2) middle portion (Balkan Peninsula from about Trieste/NE Italy to Burgas/Bulgaria and Istanbul/Turkey); and (3) eastern portion (eastern Caucasus and western part of Caspian lowlands). This snake has not been recorded from the French Island of Corsica yet (GASC et al. 1997; HAAN 1999).

In early August 2001, GH found a skin shedding of a large snake in a bush alongside a paved road in northern Corsica (Fig. 1), ca. 1.5 km E Cervione (GPS data for Cervione: 42°19'54"N, 9°29'28"E), France. The snake slough (SMF 86351) was deposited in the collection of the Forschungs-



Fig. 1: Habitat of *Malpolon monspessulanus* ca. 1.5 km E Cervione, Corsica, France.
The arrow indicates the place where the skin shedding (SMF 86351) was found.

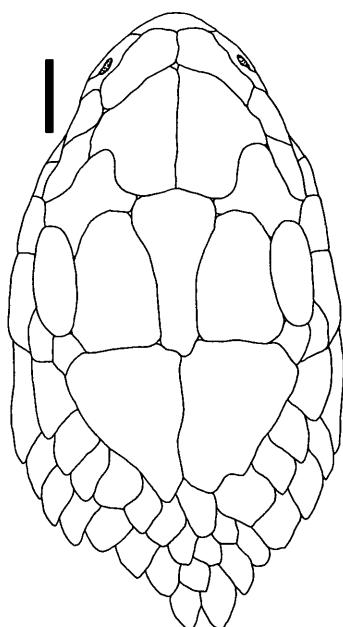


Fig. 2. Head scalation of *Malpolon monspessulanus* (SMF 86351), drawn from the snake slough.
Scale bar = 5 mm.

institut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Frankfurt a. M., Germany. It is a complete and intact skin shedding with a total length of 181 cm (snout-vent length 143.5 cm) with the following pholidotic characteristics: two loreal scales; one large preocular scale that reaches on top of head; a very elongate frontal scale (Fig. 2); 169 ventral scales; 84 pairs of subcaudal scales; dorsal scales concave, arranged in 19 longitudinal rows at midbody and in 16 one head length anterior to the cloaca. Considering that the longitudinal extension of complete sloughs usually surpasses the length of the live animals by 10-20% this snake actually had a total length of about 150-165 cm. These data agree well with published data on the morphology of *M. monspessulanus* (HAAN 1999) and exclude any other species of snake from consideration. Three other species of snakes have been reported from Corsica (GASC et al. 1997): *Coluber viridiflavus* LACÉPÈDE, 1789; *Natrix maura* (LINNAEUS, 1758); and *Natrix natrix* (LINNAEUS, 1758).

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Morphology and distribution of *Rhynchocalamus melanocephalus saturnini* (NIKOLSKY, 1899) in Turkey

The Middle East genus *Rhynchocalamus* includes three species: *Rhynchocalamus arabicus* SCHMIDT, 1933, Aden Kukri Snake, is only known from Aden (terra typica) in South Yemen (SCHMIDT 1933). *Rhynchocalamus melanocephalus* (JAN, 1862), Palestine Kukri Snake, lives in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Iran, Iraq, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey (REED & MARX 1959; DAREVSKY 1970; GASPERETTI 1988; WERNER 1988; LATIFI 1991; LEVITON et al. 1992; ENGELMANN et al. 1993; FRANZEN & BISCHOFF 1995). *Rhynchocalamus melanocephalus saturnini* (NIKOLSKY, 1899) was the only representative of the Genus known from Turkey (south and southeast Anatolia – BODENHEIMER 1944; EISELT 1970; BARAN 1976, 1980; BAŞOĞLU & BARAN 1980; BARAN & ATATÜR 1998) until FRANZEN & BISCHOFF (1995) found a specimen of *R. melanocephalus* from 20 km south of Harbiye, Hatay which they assigned to the nominate subspecies *R. m. melanocephalus* (JAN, 1862). Currently a new *Rhynchocalamus* species (*R. barani*) is being described from Amanos Mountain Range, eastern Mediterranean region of Turkey (OLGUN et al. 2007).

The present paper includes the pholidosis characters, morphometric measurements and color-pattern features of four *R.*

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