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First record of the Small-spotted Desert Lizard, *Mesalina guttulata* (Lichtenstein, 1823) (Sauria: Lacertidae), from Kuwait

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First record of the Small-spotted Desert Lizard, *Mesalina guttulata* (Lichtenstein, 1823) (Sauria: Lacertidae), from Kuwait

by Abdulrahman Al-Sirhan

There is no published record of the Small-spotted Desert Lizard *Mesalina guttulata* (Lichtenstein, 1823) in Kuwait (CLAYTON 1987, LEVITON 1992). Its described range includes northern and western Saudi Arabia (ARNOLD 1986) but there is no mention of its occurrence in Kuwait.

On 13 March 2006 I was searching for rare plants in Al-Salmi, 29°06'N, 46°39'E, when I saw an unfamiliar lizard (Fig. 1). I caught it, took some close-up photographs and released it at the same spot where it was found.

The nostril caught my attention as it was well separated from the first supralabial by a lower nasal scale; this clearly indicated that it was of the genus *Mesalina*. Further research and investigation led to me conclude that this lizard was the Small-spotted Desert Lizard, *Mesalina guttulata*. It had a small occipital scale in contact with a larger interparietal scale, 3 nasal scales the lower one of which was in contact with both rostrals and the first upper labial, and the rostral was separated from the frontonasal. There were longitudinal series of small white spots edged by dark brown spots on its dorsum. On the flanks there were smaller white spots edged with dark brown spots. The dark dorsal spots faded gradually as they extended to the end of the tail. The white spots merged gradually to become the background colour of the tail.

The only other similar lizard of the genus *Mesalina* is *M. olivieri*, but this was ruled out as there were none of the broad longitudinal dorsal stripes typical of *M. olivieri*. *M. guttulata* is widespread in North Africa, Iraq, Jordan, northern and western Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Palestine (ARNOLD 1986).

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Fig. 1. *Mesalina guttulata* from Al-Salmi, Kuwait.

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Nesting of Hawksbill Turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata* Linnaeus, 1766, on Hormoz Island, Iran (Cheloniidae)

by Mehran Loghmani Devin, Ahmad Savari and Parvin Sadeghi

Information on Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) nesting in Iran comes from older surveys (KINUNEN & WALCZAK 1971), from which GROOMBRIDGE & LUXMOORE (1989) estimated a total population of 50–100 females nesting at Queshm, Larak and Hormoz islands in the Straits of Hormoz. ROSS & BARWANI (1982) estimated another 300 females to nest on Shitvar and Lavan islands in the Persian Gulf, and approximately 1000 females annually in the whole of Iran. There is, however, not sufficient information available to substantiate these estimates (MOBARAKI 2005). As a contribution towards a more precise