

of the Nakra River; 17879 (12), gorge of the Mulkhra River above village Zhabezhi; and SMG (3), Lebarde health resort, Gegechkor region. Krasnodar territory Zil 17439 (27), Krasnaya Polyana; 17964 (1), Babuk Aul; ZMMSU. 1943 (19), Chernorechenskaya, Caucasus Reserve Forest; 3153 (1), Guzeripl; and 17973 (7) Kisha River, Caucasian Reserve Forest. Karachai-Cherkess Autonomous region: ZIL 16304 (4), Teberda, upper course of the Azgek River.

Lacerta saxicola bithynica Méhely, 1909
(Fig. 14; photo. 10)

L. depressa var. rudis, Werner, 1902:1086, Table III, Fig. 9 and 10 - muralis var. chalybdea, Boulenger (part), 1904: 337 and 338; 1913:187, Tab. XXII, Fig. 1; 1920:278. - saxicola bithynica Méhely, 1909:537, Table XXI, fig. 7; Lantz and Cyren, 1936:165; Terentiev and Chernov, 1940:98; Bodenheimer, 1944:25. - saxicola chalybdea, Nikolskii, 1915:337.

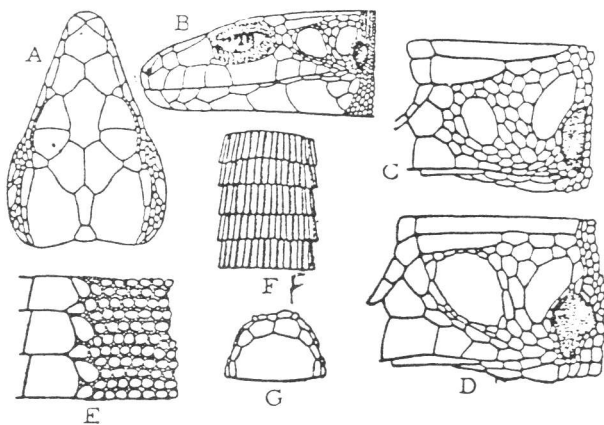


Fig. 14. Major scalation of L. s. bithynica.

A - Head, dorsal view; B - head, lateral view; C, D - temporal region; E - contact zone between dorsal and ventral scales; F - dorsal anterior third of tail; G - anal region (Uludag).

Holotype. Not designated. Described by Méhely (1909) from specimens from the Uludag mountains (Bitinsky Olimp) and around Amasa in northwestern and northern parts of Asia Minor.

Description. The width of the frontonasal scale is greater than or equal to its length. Rostral scale is separated from the frontonasal or, rarely, joins with it at one point. The suture between the frontonasal and postnasal

scales is not shorter or only slightly shorter than the suture between the anterior and posterior nasal scales. Sutures between the prefrontal and frontal scales straight or slightly concave in the latter. Between the supraciliary and supraocular scales lies a row of 3-11 granules, more often interrupted than complete. Upper postorbital in most cases touches the parietal. The first supratemporal is long or moderately so, slightly constricted or truncate posteriorly; the 2-4 posttemporals lying posterior to it are poorly developed and often indistinguishable in size from the other tiny scales of the temporal region. Central temporal is large or of moderate dimensions and in contact with the first supratemporal or separated from it by one or 2 rows of tiny scales between the large tympanic and central temporal scales. One of three tiny shields lie in a narrow area. 23-29 scales lie along the midline of the throat. Body scales are smooth, slightly prominent, somewhat enlarged towards the sides. There is a 45 to 55 midbody scale row. Each extreme ventral scale touches ventrolaterally 2, rarely 3, body scales, the posterior one is usually quite enlarged; in certain cases, these enlarged scales form a narrow secondary row of ventral scales on each side of the body. In females, the enlarged ventral scales are arranged in 24-29 transverse rows. Anterior of the large anal, 2 or 3 enlarged preanals are usually arranged symmetrically; rarely, the large preanals are not apparent. Femoral pores number 16-18. The dorsal scales of the crus are highly keeled and not larger than the dorsal scales. 4 to 5 longitudinal rows of tiny scales lie between the rows of pores and outer row of enlarged scales on the underside of thigh. The scales on the anterior third of tail are moderately keeled dorsally and strongly keeled laterally. The snout-vent length is 59-72 mm; the ratio of snout-vent length to length of original, unregenerated tail is 0.59 to 0.64 (table 4). The dorsal body color is brownish-olive, tawny-brown, yellowish-brown, or yellowish-tawny, somewhat darker on the midline. The central occipital stripe is formed by large, dark blotches, usually not touching one other and concentrated along the midline. The temporal stripes contain a row of dark ocelli with light (bluish in the prectoral region) centres. Thin bright, dorsolateral stripes extend along the upper edge of broken temporal stripe; these stripes consist of a series of irregular spots on the posterior half of body. Faint, bright, circular, dark spots sometimes occur below the temporal stripes at the edge of the abdomen. The venter of living specimens is yellow or whitish; bluish blotches on the extreme ventral scales.

Geographic distribution. The boundaries of the range are not clear. Apart from the type locality (Uludag mountain), Mchely (1909) included the neighborhood of Amasi in northern Asia Minor (Fig. 15, 1).

Comparative notes. Boulenger (1913, 1920) combined the subspecies *L. s. bithynica* and *L. s. armeniaca* described by Mchely (1909) to the subspecies *L. muralis* var *chalybdea* described by him. The unsoundness of this

Table 4

Variation of *Lacerta saxicola bithynica* (Uludag mountain, Vilayet Bursa)

Collection number	Sex	Characters								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	10	11	13
EIMG 2858	♂	66	—	—	49	27	17/18	2	3/3	2/3
EIMG 2491	♂	64	98	0.65	48	27	17/18	—	2/2	2/2
EIMG 2492	♂	64	—	—	48	25	15/16	2	2/2	2/2
EIMG 2493	♂	72	113	0.62	52	28	16/17	2	2/2	2/2
EIMG without number	♂	66	—	—	52	26	17/17	2	3/2	2/2
EIMG - do -	♂	65	—	—	51	24	18/18	2	2/2	3/3
EIMG - do -	♂	59	2	2	49	26	16/18	2	2/2	2/2
ZIN 17128	♂	69	—	—	52	25	17/17	2	2/2	3/4

point of view was demonstrated later by Lantz and Cyren (1936) who regarded *L. s. bithynica* as a distinct transitional form between *armeniaca* and *mehelyi*. It is interesting that among the 18 specimens examined by these authors, only 2 were males which suggests the prevalence of the parthenogenetic reproduction among *L. s. bithynica*.

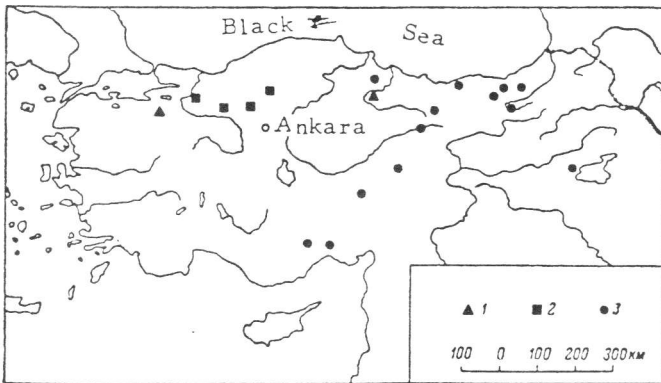


Fig. 15. Distributions in Asia Minor.

1 - *L. s. bithynica*; 2 - *L. s. tristis*; 3 - *L. s. lantzicyreni* (Scale in km).

Specimens examined. Turkey (north-western): ZIL 17128 (1), Uludag mountain, Vilayet Bursa; GUM 2491, 2492 and 2858 (3), Bitinskii Olimp (Uludag), Vilayet Bursa; SMF 30230 (1), Bursa.