

*Eremias arguta* (PALLAS, 1773)  
Steppe Runner

**Global range:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, Georgia, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Moldavia, Mongolia, Romania, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

**Distribution in Iran:** Provinces of North Khorasan, and Razavi Khorasan.

**Biology:** The Steppe Runner inhabits mountain slopes and steppe regions, the margin of forests with scattered vegetation or cultivated areas. This lizard has also been observed on rocky walls. It hides usually in holes that it excavates itself or in burrows of rodents, as well as under stones or plants.

**Size:** Snout-vent length 100 mm, tail length 144 mm.

**Reproduction:** Oviparous.

**Status:** Common.





Fig. 219: The transverse black blotches over the back (often connected to form 6–8 crossbands) are accentuated with white markings in *Eremias arguta*.  
Kamran KAMALI

**Conservation status:** IUCN: Least Concern, CITES: –, National: Non-protected.

**Diet:** Arachnids and insects.

**Activity pattern:** Diurnal.