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A new subspecies, *Eumeces schneiderii barani* n. ssp (Reptilia: Sauria: Scincidae) from Turkey

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Abstract

This study describes a new subspecies of lizard, *Eumeces schneiderii barani* **n. ssp.**, from western Anatolia, Turkey. The new subspecies is differentiated from other two subspecies in Anatolia (*E. s. princeps* and *E. s. pavimentatus*) by its characteristic colour and colour-pattern as well as by the scales along the dorsal midline. Results obtained from polyacrylamide gel disc electrophoresis support this differentiation.

Key words: *Eumeces schneiderii barani* **n. ssp.**, Sauria, Scincidae, blood-serum proteins, polyacrylamide gel disc electrophoresis, lizards, Turkey

Introduction

The scincid lizard *Eumeces schneiderii* has been recorded from North Africa (from Algiers in the west to Egypt including Sinai), Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Cyprus, Anatolia, Transcaucasia (northwards to Dagestan) and from West and Central Asia (Eiselt 1940; Mertens 1946; Baran 1977; Werner 1971; Darevsky 1981; Leviton *et al.* 1992; Disi & Böhme 1996; Atatür & Göçmen 2001; Göçmen *et al.* 2002). Two subspecies inhabit the known distribution zone of *E. schneiderii* in Anatolia (Baran & Atatür 1998; Sindaco *et al.* 2000). The subspecies of *E. s. princeps* (Eichwald) is present mainly in central, southeast and eastern Anatolia, whereas *E. s. pavimentatus* (Geoffroy–St. Hilaire) is distributed only in the eastern Mediterranean region (Vilayets of Mersin, Adana and Hatay). Recently, new localities were reported from western Anatolia for this species (Kumlutaş *et al.* 2004a, b). Those studies report that the specimens from western Anatolia (Denizli, Bozdağ-İzmir) differ from the other two known subspecies in terms of certain morphological features such as colour-pattern and the number of scales along the dorsal midline.

We compared both the morphological characteristics (pholidosis, morphometric measurements and ratios, and colour-pattern) and electrophoretic analyses of the blood-serum proteins of the specimens collected from western Anatolia with the values of the other two known subspecies.

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