

Geographical distribution of the snakes of Iraq

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Abstract:

In this research the distribution of snakes in Iraq were investigated, by reviewing the old and new data as well as carrying out field work and study of material in the Natural history Museum of Iraq, as well as, many departments and colleges in various universities are discussed. Further more, various relevant websites in the Internet that are interested with snakes. The whole snake fauna of Iraq (non- venomous, semi –venomous and venomous snake) are considered in this study.

In this study, collectively 6 families, 21 genera, and 38 species of the Iraqi snakes have been considered as follows:

From non-venomous snakes: 4 families, 12 genera and 23 species; from semi-venomous snakes: 1 family, 3 genera and 7 species; and from venomous snakes: 2 families, 6 genera and 8 species of the snakes were venomous.

During this study we found *Indotyphlops braminus* (Daudin, 1803) in southern regions of Iraq. It is likely that this tiny snake has been displaced via human agency from southern regions to the central regions of Iraq. Another tiny snake, *Indotyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820), was also found. This taxon is very close to the specimens collected from western Iran and northeastern Turkey.

Eryx jaculus familiaris (Eichwald, 1831) was the only subspecies of this snake found in Iraq. *Eryx jayakari* (Boulenger, 1888), for the first time in Iraq in the desert Rumaila field in Basra region.

Platyceps rogersi (Anderson, 1893) was a rare species in Iraq. It founds in the Rutba border town with Syria. *Platyceps rhodorachis* (Anderson, 1871) was recorded the first time in Sulaymaniyah. *Hemorrhoids ravigieri* (Menetries, 1832) is one of the rarest species of snakes in Iraq, recorded for the first time in 1929 in the city of Mosul.

Spalerosophis microlepis (Jan, 1865) has been newly discovered in areas adjacent to the Zagros Mountains in Sulaimaniya in northern of Iraq and also another record from Erbil. *Lytorhynchus diadema kennedyi* (Schmidt, 1939) is a rare subspecies occurring in Iraq. Two male specimens found in Iraq for the first time in the city of Qaim border with Syria to the west of Iraq. *Eirenis coronelloides* (Jan, 1862) was also newly discovered in the northeastern regions of Iraq. Further, *Zamenis hohenackeri* (Strauch, 1873) is a new record of genus and species for the Iraqi herpetofauna. Subspecies *Echis carinatus sochureki* (Stemmler, 1969) for the first time recorded from Iraq in Al-Basra province (southern Iraq).

Since our knowledge on distribution of the snakes in Iraq is scarce, the main aim of this research is to identify the diversity of snake in Iraq comprehensively and describe their appropriate environments and their distribution.

Keywords: Distribution; Non-Venomous, Semi-Venomous, Venomous Snake, Iraq.

Introduction

Iraq, being a west Asian country, lies in the Middle East region between 28°-37° north and 39°-48.6° east, bordered from the north by Turkey, from the east by Iran and from the west by Syria and Jordan and from the south by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Persian Gulf. Iraq is made up of ten different terrestrial eco-regions: Eastern Anatolian montane steppe, Tigris-Euphrates alluvial salt marsh, Arabian Desert and East Sahero-Arabian Xeric Shrublands, Mesopotamian Shrub Desert, Middle East Steppe, Zagros Mountains Forest Steppe, Eastern Mediterranean conifer-sclerophyllous-broadleaf forest, Red Sea Nubo-Sindian Tropical Desert and Semi-Desert, South Iran Nubo-Sindian desert and semi-desert and Persian Gulf desert and semi-desert [24]. Snakes are the second most species group of living reptiles, with over 2900 species. Snakes exhibit a diversity of shapes, sizes, and surface textures. This diversity in morphology reflects diverse behavioral, ecological, and physiological diversity. As a group, snakes eat a wide variety of prey, all are carnivores, and diets of many species are highly specialized. The early classification of snakes was based on extant species in museum collections. Consequently, classification was based entirely on external appearance [23].

Material and Methods

We have adopted the collection and search data and information about snakes existing in Iraq. The data were collected through field visits to the Natural History Museum of Iraq, as well as some faculties and departments in Iraqi universities, which have conduct some research on the field. We also collected data and information from previous and recent studies and books, as well as the internet and some websites that are interested in snakes.

Statistical Analysis

Family: Typhlopidae

Genus: *Indotyphlops* (Schneider, 1811)

***Indotyphlops braminus* (Daudin, 1803)**

Synonyms: *Typhlops Braminus* (Dumeril & Bibron, 1844)

Common names: Flowerpot Snake

Distribution: Basra [2]. Baghdad and Basrah [1].

Genus: *Xerotyphlops* (Schneider, 1811)

***Xerotyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820)**

Synonym: *Typhlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820)

Common names: Eurasian Blind Snake

Distribution: Baghdad and Nasiriyah, both in 1929 [2]. Nasiriyah [3]. Halabja, Chemchamal (Sulaimaniya), Salahadin, Erbil, Kirkuk, Zala (Mosul), Duhok, Baghdad [1].

Family: Leptotyphlopidae

Genus: *Leptotyphlops* (Fitzinger, 1843)

***Leptotyphlops macrorhynchus* (Jan, 1861)**

Synonym: *Stenosoma (Ramphostoma) macrorhynchum* (Jan, 1860)

Common names: Long nosed Worm Snake

Distribution: Faleya (Fallujah) and Euphrates, in 1929 Baghdad [3]. Halabja-(Sulaimaniya), Baquba, Kirkuk, Erbil, Baghdad, Falluja, kut, Nasriya, Amara [1].

Family: Boidae

Genus: *Eyrx* (Daudin, 1803)

Eryx jaculus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Eryx jaculus* (Reuss, 1834)

Common names: Javelin Sand Boa

Distribution: Basra, Sheik Saad, Amara, Shabia, Baghdad, Mesopotamia (1920), Nasiriyah [3]. Bisan valley and Daray Mar, Halabja, Sulaimaniya province [4]. Bahr Al-Najaf west and south-west of Holy Najaf City [5]. Dalmaj wetland is located 40 km east of Diwaniya city and 40 km southwest of Kut city [6].

The subspecies *Eryx jaculus familiaris* (Eichwald, 1831) Sulamaniya [3], [7]. Basra, Sheik Saad, Shaiba, Amara, Nasiriyah, Baghdad, Hinaidi, Baquba, Mandali, and Sulamina, Diwaniyah, and Mosul [2].

Bahr Al-Najaf depression, Al-Najaf *E. jaculus* (Linnaeus, 1758) *E. jaculus jaculus* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *E. jaculus familiaris* Eichwald, 1831, These specimens, which are tentatively regarded as *Eryx cf. miliaris* (Pallas, 1773) [8].

Eryx jayakari (Boulenger, 1888)

Synonym: *Eryx jayakari* (Boulenger, 1888)

Common Names: Arabian Sand Boa

Distribution: Rumaila desert 80 km, west of Basra [9].

Family: Colubridae

Genus: *Natrix* (Laurenti, 1768)

Natrix tessellata (Laurenti, 1768)

Synonym: *Coronella tessellata* (Laurenti, 1768)

Common names: Dice Snake

Distribution: Basra; Quelat Saleh, Amara, Sheik Saad, Haquicole on Euphrates near Hamar Lake, Faleya, Zobeya, Fao (Fallujah), and, Zobeya (zobeir). in (1928 and 1929) Baghdad, Nasiriyah, Nejaf, Tuz Khurmatu, Baquba, Mosul, Mandali, Beled Ruz, and Hinaidi [2], [10]. Balad Sinjar, Diana, Halfaya, Nasiriyah [3]. Near the Dialah Bridge, 10 km east of Baghdad [11]. Bisan valley and Daray Mar, Halabja, Sulaimaniya province in mountains of Hawraman [4]. Bahr Al-Najaf is a wetland to the west and south-west of Holy Najaf City [5]. Dalmaj wetland is located 40 km east of Diwaniya city and 40 km southwest of Kut city [6]. The dice snake *Natrix tessellate tessellate* (Laurenti, 1768) Baghdad [12], [13].

Natrix natrix (Pallas, 1814)

Synonym: *Coluber Natrix* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common names: European Grass Snake

Distribution: Baghdad [12], [13]. Dialah Bridge, 10 km east of Baghdad [11].

Genus: *Platyceps* (Blyth, 1860)

Platyceps najadum (Eichwald, 1831)

Synonym: *Tyria najadum* (Eichwald, 1831)

Common names: Slender Whip Snake

Distribution: Baghdad [10]. Baghdad and Balad Sinjar [3]. Baghdad and Baqubah [2].

Platyceps ventromaculatus (Gray, 1834)

Synonym: *Coluber ventromaculatus* (Gray, 1834)

Common names: Hard wicke's Rat Snake

Distribution: Baghdad and Amara [15]. Basra, Sheik Saad, Esra's Tomb between Quarah and Amara, Shaiba, Faleya, Zobeya, Bagdad, Samash, Baquba, Baghdad, Nejaf, Diwaniyah, Hilla, and Tuz Khurmatu [10], [2]. Bahr Al-Najaf west and south-west of Holy Najaf City [5].

***Platyceps rhodorachis* (Jan, 1865)**

Synonym: *Zamenis rhodorachis* (Jan, 1865)

Common names: Wadi Racer

Distribution: Diana from Erbil [3], [13]. Daraymars caves, 20 km north-east of Khormal, in the lowest zone of Hawraman mountain [16], [4].

***Platyceps rogersi* (Anderson, 1893)**

Synonym: *Coluber rogersi* (Flower, 1933)

Common names: Rogers' Racer eng

Distribution: Rutba [3].

Genus: *Dolichophis* (Gistel, 1868)

***Dolichophis jugularis* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Synonym: *Coluber jugularis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common names: Large Whip Snake

Distribution: Baghdad, Basra, Amara, Haqicole, and Faleya (Fallujah). In (1928 and 1929) Baqubah and Nasiriyah, Hinaidi area of Baghdad, Mosul, Nehjaf, Diwaniyah, Suq-Al-Shuq, and Deltawa [2]. Bisan valley and Daray Mar, Halabja, Sulaimaniya province [4]. Subspecies *Dolichophis jugularis asianus* (Boettger, 1880) Amara in Halfaya and three in Zakho [3].

Genus: *Hemorrhois* (Boie, 1826)

***Hemorrhois ravergeri* (Menetries, 1832)**

Synonym: *Coluber Ravergeri* (Menetries, 1832)

Common names: Spotted Wipe Snake

Distribution: Mosul [2]. Diana and Zakho [3].

Genus: *Spalerosophis* (Jan, 1865)

***Spalerosophis diadema* (Schlegel, 1837)**

Synonym: *Coluber diadema* (Schlegel, 1837)

Common names: Diadem Snake

Distribution: Basra, Baghdad, Sheik Saad, Shaiba, Faleya, Zobeya, Nasiriyah, Baquba [10]. In (1928 and 1929) Jebal Hamrin, Khaniqin, and Sulamainia. Baghdad, Baquba, and Khaniqin [2], [3], [17]. [9]. Bahr Al-Najaf south-west of Holy Najaf City [5].

***Spalerosophis microlepis* (Jan, 1865)**

Synonym: *Spalerosophis microlepis* (Jan, 1865)

Common names: Zebra Snake

Distribution: Village Bolle, north of Qala Deza, NW of Sulaymaniya. Sirin mountain, Kandel foot hill in Kurdistan of Iraq [17].

Genus: *Lytorhynchus* (Peters, 1863)

***Lytorhynchus diadema* (Dumeril & Bibron, 1854)**

Synonym: *Heterodon diadema* (Bibron & Dumeril, 1854)

Common names: Crowned Leafnose Snake

Distribution: Shaiba, Faleya [10]. In Rutba [2]. And in Baghdad [3]. Rumaila desert 80 km, west of Basra [9]. And subspecies *Lytorhynchus diadema mesopotamicus* (Haas, 1952) 40 km west of Mosul [14], [7].

***Lytorhynchus diadema kennedyi* (Schmidt, 1939)**

Synonym: *Lytorhynchus kennedyi* (Schmidt, 1939)

Common names: Kennedy's Leaf nose Snake

Distribution: Southwest of Iraq [7]. Al-Qaim, Anbar province in Iraq [9].

Genus: *Eirenis* (Jan, 1863)

***Eirenis persicus* (Anderson, 1872)**

Synonym: *Cyclophis persicus* (Anderson, 1872)

Common names: Dark-headed Dwarf Racer

Distribution: Iraq (Erbil, Diyala, Dohuk, Kirkuk, Nineveh and Sulaimaniya Province [18].

***Eirenis collaris* (Menetries, 1832)**

Synonym: *Coluber collaris* (Menetries, 1832)

Common names: Collared Dwarf Racer

Distribution: Baghdad. Sulamainia in 1928, Baqubah in June, 1929 [2]. Baghdad [10]. Tall Afar in Mosul [3].

***Eirenis coronella* (Schlegel, 1837)**

Synonym: *Calamaria coronella* (Schlegel, 1837)

Common names: The Syrian Dwarf snake

Distribution: Shaiba, Zobeya (Zobeir), and Faleya (Fallujah), And Rutba [2], [10]. Adult male, From Rutba in Iraq specimen Schmidt 1939 *Eirenis coronella fraseri* [3].

***Eirenis coronelloides* (Jan, 1862)**

Synonym: *Homalosoma coronelloides* (Jan, 1862)

Common names: Not designated.

Distribution: North of Erbil and Qaladeza NW of Sulaymaniya [17].

***Eirenis decemlineata* (Dumeril & Bibron, 1854)**

Synonym: *Ablabes decem-lineatus* (Bibron & Dumeril, 1854)

Common names: The lined dwarf snake

Distribution: near Sulamainia [2].

Genus: *Zamenis* (Fitzinger, 1853)

***Zamenis hohenackeri* (Strauch, 1873)**

Synonym: *Coluber hohenackeri* (Strauch, 1873)

Common names: Transcaucasia Rat Snake

Distribution: Hawraman Mountain and in Erbil [16], [4].

Genus: *Telescopus* (Wagler, 1830)

***Telescopus fallax* (Fleischmann, 1831)**

Synonyms: *Tarbophis fallax* (Fleischmann, 1831)

Common names: European cat snake

Distribution: Baghdad [10]. Baghdad and Mesopotamia, in 1928 and 1929 Baghdad and also in Mandali and Khaniqin [2]. But Khalaf said this is probably the species which is found in Iraq, instead of *Telescopus fallax iberus* [14].

***Telescopus tessellatus* (Wall, 1908)**

Synonyms: *Tarbophis tessellatus* (Wall, 1908)

Common names: Soosan Tiger Snake

Distribution: Baghdad [3], [7].

***Telescopus nigriceps* (Ahl, 1924)**

Synonyms: *Tarbophis nigriceps* (Ahl, 1924)

Common names: Black headed cat snake

Distribution: Central Mesopotamia Rutba and Baghdad [7], [3].

Genus: *Malpolon* (Fitzinger, 1826)

***Malpolon monspessulanus* (Hermann, 1804)**

Synonyms: *Coluber monspessulanus* (Hermann, 1804)

Common names: Montpellier Snake

Distribution: Baghdad [10]. In 1928 and 1929 Baghdad again (six of them), Tuz Khurmatu, Mosul, and Suwara [2].

Malpolon insignitus (Geoffroyde ST-Hilaire, 1809)

Synonyms: *Coelopeltis insignitus* (Dumeril & Bibron, 1854)

Common names: Eastern Montpellier Snake

Distribution: *Malpolon monspessulana insignitus*-Schmidt 1939 in Diana, Erbil, Zakho [3]. Bisan valley and Daray Mar, Halabja, Sulaimaniya [4]. And subspecies *Malpolon insignitus fuscus* (Fleischmann, 1831 at the foot of Hawraman Mountain and in Erbil [16].

Malpolon moilensis (Reuss, 1834)

Synonyms: *Coluber moilensis* (Reuss, 1834)

Common names: Moila Snake

Distribution: Baghdad [3]. Sodom, Sheik Saad, and Shaiba [10], [2]. Rumaila desert 80 km, west of Basra [9]. And in Bahr Al-Najaf south-west of Holy Najaf City [5].

Genus: Psammophis (Fitzinger, 1826)

Psammophis schokari (Forsskal, 1775)

Synonyms: *Coluber schokari* (Forsk., 1775)

Common names: Schokari Sand Racer

Distribution: Basra and Shaiba. In 1930 Rutba [2], [3]. Bahr Al-Najaf west and south-west of Holy Najaf City [5].

Family: Viperidae

Genus: Macrovipera (Laurenti, 1768)

Macrovipera lebetina (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Coluber Lebetinus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common names: Levantine Viper

Distribution: Baghdad [10]. In 1928, 1929, and 1930 Sulamainiya, Mandali, Mosul, Baqubah, Jebel Hamrin, Quaragan, and Barzan on the Zab River. And depended Schmidt *Macrovipera lebetina euphratica* (Martin, 1893) found in Balad Sinjar [3]. Bisan valley and Daray Mar, Halabja-Sulaimaniya (Hawraman) *Macrovipera lebetina obtuse* (Dwinubsky, 1832), [4].

Genus: Montivipera (Nilson, Tuniyev, Andrén, Orlov, Joger & Herrmann, 1999)

Montivipera raddei (Boettger, 1890)

Synonyms: *Vipera raddei* (Boettger, 1890)

Common names: Caucasus Viper

Distribution: Northeastern Iraq [7],[22], [20], [2] had reported on a snake bite of a "horned viper" a Dahuk, north of Mosul *Montivipera raddei kurdistanica* [7].

Genus: Cerastes (Laurenti, 1768)

Cerastes cerastes (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Cerastes cerastes* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common names: Desert Horned Viper

Distribution: In Basra and Shaiba from Iraq [10], [15], [2]. Rutba in 1930. In 1929 a fatal case of bite by a *C. cornutus* took place at Dohuk, north of Mosul, Baghdad [2]. Rumala desert 80 km, west of Basra, south of Iraq [9]. Bahr Al-Najaf of Holy Najaf [5].

Genus: *Echis* (Merrem, 1820)

Echis carinatus (Schneider, 1801)

Synonyms: *Pseudoboa carinata* (Schneider, 1801)

Common names: Saw-scaled Viper

Distribution: Imam Hamza, Diwaniyah area, in 1923, 1924 [2]. Said Dakheel near AL-Nsiriya, southern Iraq [11]. In December 2014 during AL-Basra province (southern Iraq), the Shat Al-Arab of Basra city, Kut al Kawam [19].

Genus: *Pseudocerastes* (Boulenger, 1896)

Pseudocerastes fieldi (Schmidt, 1930)

Synonyms: *Pseudocerastes fieldi* (Schmidt, 1930)

Common names: Field's Horned Viper

Distribution: Southwestern Iraq from the Euphrates river (northwestern Iraq) [7].

Pseudocerastes persicus (Dumeril, Bibron & Dumerril, 1854)

Synonyms: *Cerastes persicus* (Dumeril, Bibron & Dumeril, 1854)

Common names: Perisan Horned Viper

Distribution: North of Iraq [21], [7].

Family: Elapidae

Genus: *Walterinnesia* (Lataste, 1887)

Walterinnesia morgani (Mocquard, 1905)

Synonyms: *Naja morgani* (Mocquard, 1905)

Common names: The hoodless cobra

Distribution: Shaiba and Mesopotamia [10]. In 1928, 1929, and 1930, Mosul, Baqubah, Mandali, and Rutba [2].

Walterinnesia aegyptia (Lataste, 1887)

Synonyms: *Walterinnesia aegyptia* (Lataste, 1887)

Common names: Desert Cobra

Distribution: only the Mosul record of [2], [20].

Results and Discussion

Through researched and collected information we find snakes six families, twenty one genera, and thirty eight species in Iraq. Four families, twelve genera and twenty three species are non-venomous snakes. And one family, three genera and seven species are semi-venomous snakes. Two families, six genera and eight species of the snakes are venomous.

Table 1: Distribution of snakes in Iraq

Family/Subfamily	Species	Distribution in Iraq
Typhlopidae	<i>Indotyphlops braminus</i>	Basra, Baghdad
	<i>Xeropyphlops vermicularis</i>	Baghdad, Nasiriyah, Halabja, Sulaimainiya, Salahadin, Erbil, Kirkuk, Mosul, Duhok
Leptotyphlopidae	<i>Leptotyphlops macrorhynchus</i>	Fallujah, Baqubah, Nasiriyah, Halabja, Kirkuk, Erbil, kut, Amara
Boidae	<i>Eryx jayakari</i>	Basra
	<i>Eryx jaculus</i>	Basra, Amara, Baghdad, Nasiriyah, Halabja, Sulaimainiya, Al-Najaf, Erbil, Kut, Baquba, Mandali, Diwaniyah, Mosul
	<i>Eryx cf. miliaris</i>	Al-Najaf
Coluberidae	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>	Basra, Amara, Fallujah, Fao, Baghdad, Nasiriyah, Al-Nejaf, Tuz Khurmatu, Baquba, Mosul, Mandali, Beled Ruz, and Hinaidi (Hilla), Erbil, Halabja, Sulaimainiya, Diwaniya
	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	Baghdad
	<i>Platyceps najadum</i>	Baghdad, Balad Sinjar (Mosul), Baqubah
	<i>Platyceps ventromaculatus</i>	Baghdad, Amara, Basra, Fallujah, Baquba, Nasiriya, Kish (Hilla), Fao, Diwaniya, Al-Nejaf, Tuz Khurmatu (Salahldin)
	<i>Platyceps rhodorachis</i>	Halabja, Sulaimainiya, Erbil
	<i>Platyceps rogersi</i>	Rutba
	<i>Dolichophis jugularis</i>	Baghdad, Basra, Amara, Fallujah, Baqubah, Nasiriyah, Hinaidi (Hilla), Mosul, Al-Nejaf, Halabja, Sulaimaniya, Erbil, Zakho
	<i>Hemorrhhis ravergieri</i>	Mosul, Zakho, Erbil
	<i>Spalerosophis diadema</i>	Basra, Baghdad, Nasiryah, Baquba, Fallujah, Zobeir, Khalideah (Anbar), Sulamainiya, Al-Najaf
	<i>Spalerosophis microlepis</i>	Sulaymanyah
	<i>Lytorhynchus diadema</i>	Al-Qaim, Rutba (Anbar), Basra, Fallujah, Baghdad, Mosul
	<i>Eirenis persicus</i>	Erbil, Diyala, Dohuk, Kirkuk, Nineveh and Sulaimainiya
<i>Eirenis collaris</i>	Baghdad, Tall Afar (Mosul), Sulaimainiya, Baqubah	

	<i>Eirenis coronella</i>	Fallujah, Zobeir, Rutba (Anbar), Shaiba (Basra)
	<i>Eirenis coronelloides</i>	Sulaymainiya, Erbil
	<i>Eirenis decemlineata</i>	Sulamainiya, Diana (Erbil)
	<i>Zamenis hohenackeri</i>	Halabjah, Erbil
	<i>Telescopus fallax</i>	Baghdad, Mandali, Khaniqin
	<i>Telescopus tessellatus</i>	Baghdad and Tigris-Euphrates area
	<i>Telescopus nigriceps</i>	Rutba, Baghdad
	<i>Psammophis schokari</i>	Amara, Rutba, Basra, Al-Najaf
	<i>Malpolon monspessulanus</i>	Baghdad, Tuz Khurmatu (Salahldin), Mosul
	<i>Malpolon insignitus</i>	Halabja, Sulaimaniya, Erbil, Zakho
	<i>Malpolon moilensis</i>	Baghdad, Basra, Sodom, Sheik Saad, Al-Najaf
Viperidae	<i>Macrovipera lebetina</i>	Baghdad, Sulamainia, Mandali, Mosul, Baqubah, Jebel Hamrin, Halabjah
	<i>Montivipera raddei kurdistanica</i>	Dahuk
	<i>Cerastes cerastes</i>	Rutba, Basra, Al-Najaf, Dahuk
	<i>Echis carinatus</i>	Diwanayah, Nsiriyah, Basra
	<i>Pseudocerastes persicus</i>	North Iraq
	<i>Pseudocerastes s fieldi</i>	Northwestern Iraq
Elapidae	<i>Walterinnesia morgani</i>	Mosul, Baqubah, Mandali, Rutba, Basra
	<i>Walterinnesia aegyptia</i>	Mosul

Family Typhlopidae has two genera in Iraq: *Indotyphlops* and *Xerotyphlops*. This genus has two species; the first one is *Indotyphlops braminus* (Daudin, 1803). The previous references such as Khalaf [14], Corkill [2], Boulenger [10], show that this snake is only found in Basra, south of Iraq, but recent references like Afrasiab & Ali [1] show that it is not only found in Basra, but also in Baghdad, middle of Iraq. This snake is lazy and inactive. Approximately, it can extend its range about 600 km within 50 years. We believe that they emerged in Baghdad, the middle of Iraq, because humans transformed them from Basra through soil and plants.

The species of *Eryx jaculus* (Linnaeus, 1758) has two subspecies: *Eryx jaculus jaculus* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Eryx jaculus familiaris* (Eichwald, 1831). Khalaf [14], the previous reference, believes that *Eryx jaculus familiaris* (Eichwald, 1831) is the only subspecies found in Iraq.

Eryx jayakari (Boulenger, 1888) is Widespread on the Arabian Peninsula from Kuwait, and Jazan, and recorded from Iran in Khuzestan, Bushahr, and Kerman Province (west of Sirjan) and is probably present in all active dunes within this area. It is a common species in Saudi Arabia. It is very common in Kuwait according to Latifi [25] Leviton *et al.*, [7], and Masood [26]. Afrasiab & Ali [9] found this species for the first time in the south of Iraq in the Rumaila desert in Basra. This snake is very common in Iraq's neighboring countries such as the deserts of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and come to Iraq by sand and soft soils [25].

Platyceps rogersi (Anderson, 1893) this is not a common species in Iraq. According to Schmidt [3] it was found in the Rutba, the border town with Syria. This snake is common in Syria and Palestine and might have sneaked into Iraq across the border and perhaps currently exists in that region as its habitats are deserts and dry lands. All recent studies represent that species does not exist now.

P. rhodorachis (Anderson, 1871) was first introduced by Afrasiab & Mohamad, [16] in Sulaymaniya. *Hemorrhoids ravergeri* (Menetries, 1832) is one of the rare species in Iraq. It is first recorded in 1929 in the city of Mosul. According to Corkill [2] no other case is reported until 1939 in the cities of Dohuk and Erbil.

Spalerosophis microlepis (Jan, 1865). This species is endemic to eastern and central Iran. But According to Afrasiab & Mohamad [17] it has been newly discovered in areas adjacent to the Zagros Mountains in Sulaimaniya in northern Iraq in Erbil. Additional surveys are needed to determine if the species is present in another area Iraq. Perhaps after a period of time it may also be an endemic species in Iraq.

Lytorhynchus diadema kennedyi [3] is rare subspecies in Iraq since only two male specimens have been found in Iraq for the first time in the city of Qaim, border with Syria to the west of Iraq, according to Afrasiab & Ali [9]. It is widespread in Syria and Jordan and may have come to Iraq from these places.

Eirenis coronelloides (Jan, 1862) this species is newly discovered in the northeast of Iraq according to Afrasiab & Mohamad [17].

Genus: *Zamenis* (Fitzinger, 1853), *Zamenis hohenackeri* (Strauch, 1873) The specimen, according to Afrasiab & Mohamad [16], has a genus and species newly in Iraq.

Echis carinatus (Schneider, 1801). It has been recorded in previous references by Corkill [2] in Dwaniyah area in the middle of Iraq until 2011 and no other examples are recorded. Even Afrasiab *et al.*, [11] collected two specimens from the village of Said Dakheel near Al-Nasiriyah province, southern Iraq. In 2011, a dry winter together with late rains at the end of a hot April (possibly the impact of global warming and changing of the climate) caused an increase of humidity and, as a consequence, obviously mass reproduction of *Echis* at Said Dakheel. This is also confirmed by Rhadi *et al.* [19] who found this snake in AL-Basra province (southern Iraq).

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