

Lacerta strigata EICHWALD, 1831
Caspian Green Lizard

Global range: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Russia, and Turkey.

Distribution in Iran: Provinces of Ardabil, East Azerbaijan, West Azerbaijan, Fars (?), Gilan, Golestan, North Khorasan, and Mazandaran.

Biology: The Caspian Green Lizard usually inhabits meadows and open steppes, and dense

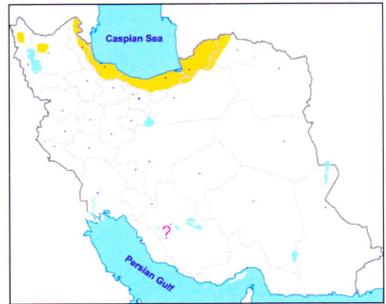


Fig. 251: Juvenile *Lacerta strigata* are characterized by five pale stripes running from head to hind legs.

Omid MOZAFFARI



Fig. 252: *Lacerta strigata*, male.

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forests. This species prefers living in the hills around forested areas, with vegetation suitable for escaping, than in flat regions. This lizard is found up to 2,800 m a.s.l. It is often active among bushes, and in cane fields and grasslands. It runs fast when it feels threatened and hides in tufts of bunch grasses.

Size: Snout–vent length 102 mm, tail length 202 mm.

Reproduction: Oviparous.

Status: Common.

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

Diet: Arachnids and insects.

Activity pattern: Diurnal.