

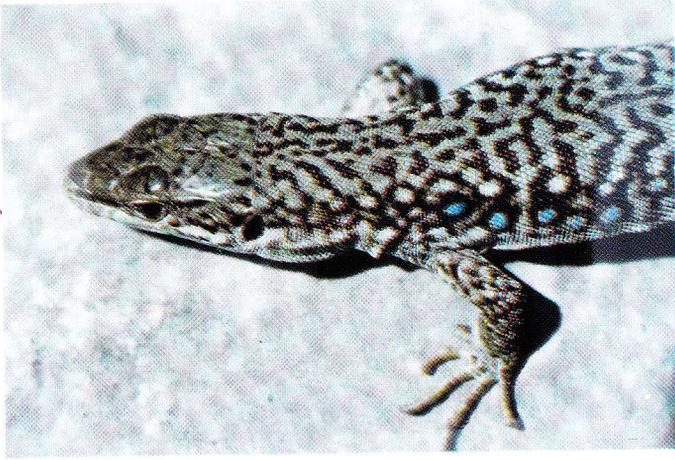
Lacerta sapphirina SCHMIDTLER-EISELT-DAREVSKY, 1994

Van Lizard

Identification: Total length about 16 cm. Rostral does not contact external nares; a single postnasal; 53-57 rows of dorsal scales at mid-trunk; ventrals in 6 longitudinal rows; femoral pores between 14-17. The dorsum is light brownish-gray with irregular thin and wavy dark transverse markings. Flanks with 5-7 light blue ocellations, the posterior ones not as distinct as the anterior ocelli. The venter is whitish, the outer ventral plates with not so distinct blue and gray spots.

Habitat & Biology: Prefers rocky and stony open slopes and high steppes. Feeds on insects and soft bodied invertebrates. Parthenogenetically a female lays 3-4 eggs.

Distribution: Presently, known only from the vicinity of Erciş (altitude approx. 2000 m) within Vilayet Van in E Anatolia.



64. *Lacerta sapphirina*