



Observations of Agror Agamas, *Laudakia agrorensis* (Stoliczka 1872) (Sauria: Agamidae), in the Doda District, Jammu and Kashmir, India

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Agror Agamas, *Laudakia agrorensis* (Stoliczka 1872; Fig. 1), also known as Asian Rock Agamas, range through eastern Afghanistan, northwestern India (Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir), and northern Pakistan at elevations of 700–1,300 m (Stoliczka 1872; Smith 1935; Baig et al. 2012; Uetz et al. 2017).

Duda and Sahi (1977, 1978), Sahi (1979), and Sahi and Duda (1982, 1985, 1986) reported the results of herpeto-

logical surveys in Jammu and Kashmir State, but no one has since then addressed the herpetofauna of the Doda District. From March to mid-June in 2014 and 2015, during efforts to monitor the effects of changing climatic regimes on the reptilian fauna, we conducted surveys in the mountainous region above the Chenab Valley (33°08'N, 75°32'E, average elevation 1,107 m asl) in the Shiwalik Range of the Middle Himalayas (Table 1).



Fig. 1. Adult Agror Agamas (*Laudakia agrorensis*) encountered in the Doda Region, Jammu and Kashmir, India. Photographs by Amit Manhas.

Table 1. Sampling sites in the Doda Region.

Site	Location	Elevation asl
Nai-Bhallara	33°05'20.69"N, 75°42'30.24"E	1,693–2,328 m
Village Chagsoo	33°07'33.27"N, 75°40'11.50"E	1,097–2,269 m
Village Zazinda	33°5'34.48"N, 75°38'19.74"E	1,566–2,306 m
Bhaderwah City	32°58'47.89"N, 75°42'57.27"E	1,514–1,829 m
Doda City	33°08'34.41"N, 75°32'47.33"E	975–1,282 m

We encountered Agror Agamas during May and June at three (Nai-Bhallara, Village Chagsoo, and Village Zazinda) of five sites sampled (Fig. 2). Ambient air temperatures where lizards were seen were 19–24 °C and elevations ranged from 1,216 to 2,198 m asl. Microhabitats included rocky areas near a stream, bushes, and fallen tree trunks, with the largest number of lizards associated with rocks in areas of sparse vegetation (Fig. 3).

The largest individual we encountered (total length = 295 mm, SVL = 95 mm) was exactly the same size as the largest documented by Sahi (1979). Smith (1935) reported the species from Punjab (Agror Valley) and Kashmir (Jhelum Valley), and Sahi (1979) documented the species in Nandani, Mansar Village, and Ramban during April 1976 and in June

and July 1997, respectively; our records extend the known range of the species in Doda District approximately 40 km to the west (Fig. 2). Our maximum recorded elevation of 2,198 m asl at Village Zazinda in the Doda District is substantially higher than the elevational range (approximately 700–1,300 m asl) reported by Baig et al. (2012) in Pakistan and Kashmir.

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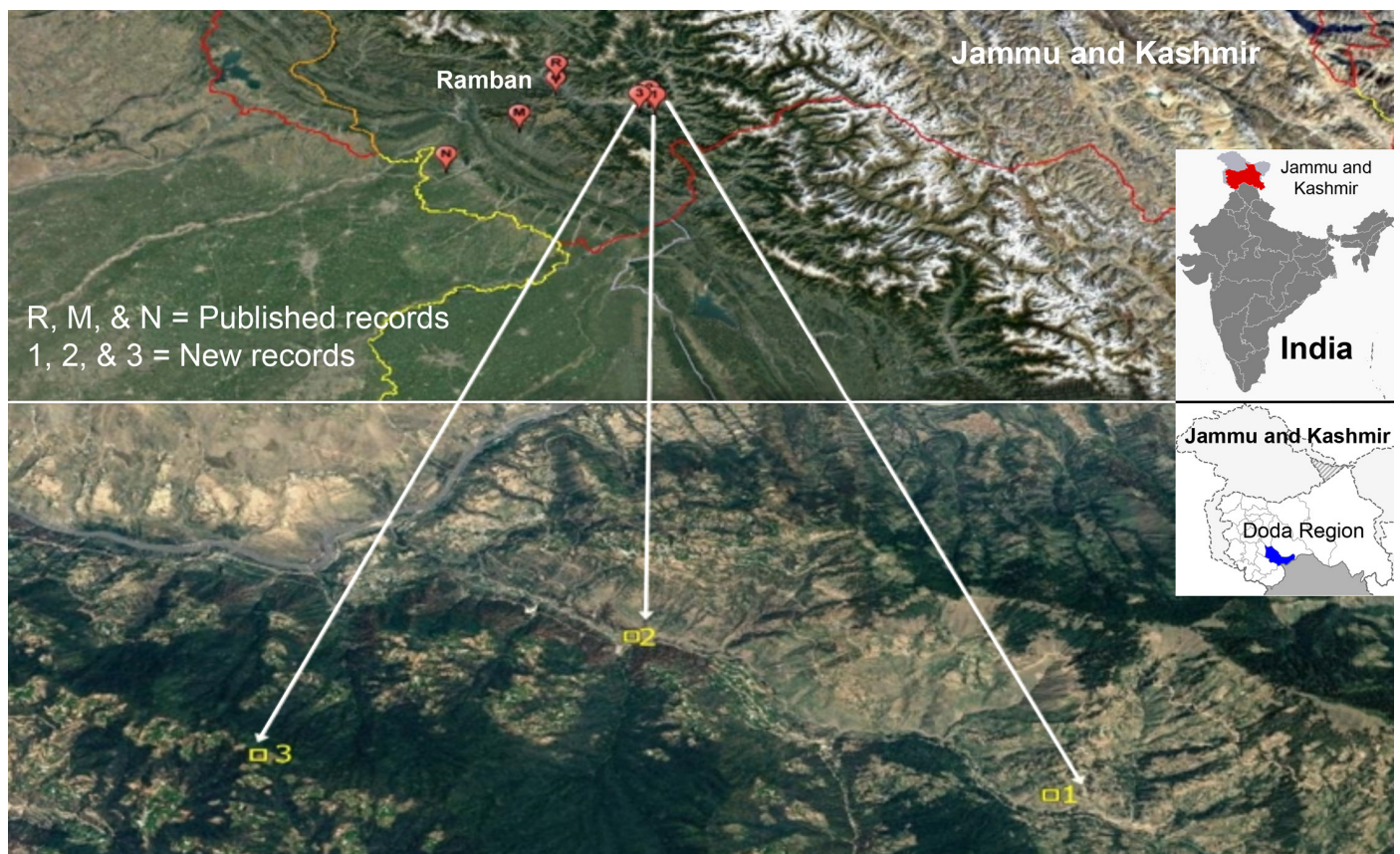


Fig. 2. Published and new records of Agror Agamas (*Laudakia agrorensis*) in Jammu and Kashmir, India.



Fig. 3. The largest number of Agror Agamas (*Laudakia agrorensis*) encountered during surveys in the Doda Region, Jammu and Kashmir, India, were in rocky habitat with sparse vegetation near a stream. This site was near Village Chagsoo. Photograph by Amit Manhas.

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