



Dust-bathing by a Kashmir Rock Agama, *Laudakia tuberculata* (Gray 1827), in Haryana, India

Sachin Ranade

Vulture Conservation Breeding Center, Belguri, Rani-781131, Kamrup District, Assam, India (s.ranade@bnhs.org)

The Kashmir Rock Agama (*Laudakia tuberculata*), is widely distributed at elevations of 150–3,600 m asl through eastern Afghanistan, northern Pakistan, the northern states of India, southwestern Nepal, and southwestern China (Tibet) (Bahuguna 2008; Baig et al 2012; Uetz et al. 2025). After a recent publication by Vishwakarma et al. (2019), I came to the conclusion that I had observed the same species in Haryana, India, in 2001–2005.

On 23 November 2002, I noticed a lizard dust-bathing at about 0900h at Badisher, Panchkula District, Haryana, in northern India close to the Haryana-Himachal Pradesh border (30.718159, 77.109123). The dust bath went on for about 10 min on the edge of a dilapidated tar road. I followed the lizard and photographed it (Fig. 1a), but could not identify it at that time. I encountered the same species on rocks

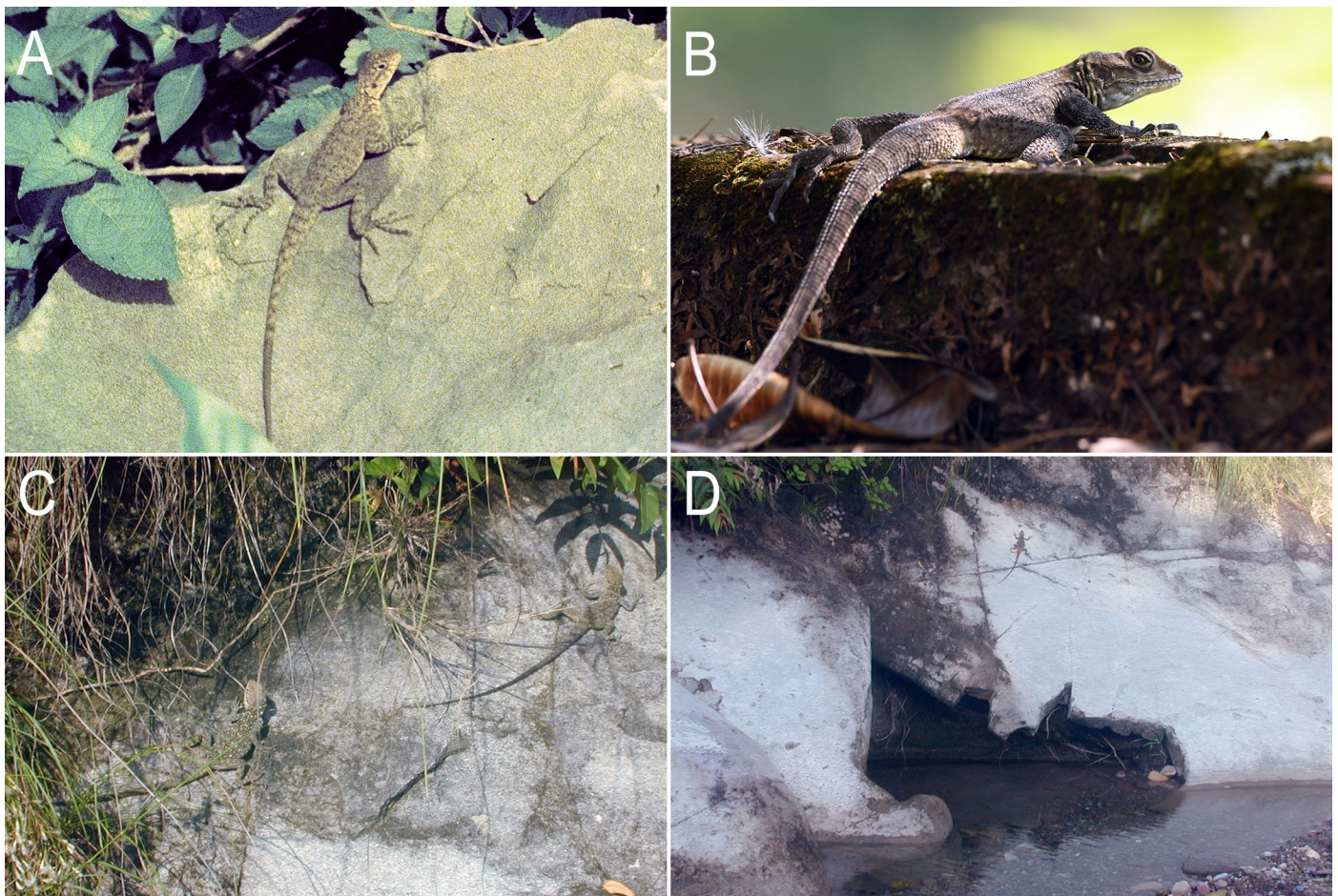


Figure 1. Kashmir Rock Agamas (*Laudakia tuberculata*) at Badisher, Haryana, India, photographed on 23 November 2002 (A), on 6 October 2024 (B), and in November 2004, at Kalesar National Park, Haryana, India (C) and (D). Photographs by Sachin Ranade.

on the bank of a river and on man-made concrete structures at the same location during a recent visit on 6 October 2024, and tentatively identified it as a Kashmir Rock Agama from photographs (Fig. 1b). In 2004, I had seen the same species at Chikan Khol and Kalesar National Park, Yamunanagar District, Haryana (30.370624, 77.486735), areas close to the location mentioned by Vishwakarma et al. (2019). Especially in winter (November–February), I observed four to seven individuals congregated on rocks near pools of water (Fig. 1c–d).

These recent records from Haryana, India, suggest that this species warrants further study in the lowest and southernmost parts of its range. Of particular interest would be whether the dust-bathing behavior described herein is a means of dealing with ectoparasitic infections as suggested

by Stander (2023), who described similar behavior in the Southern Tree Agama (*Acanthocercus atricollis*) of Africa.

Literature Cited

- Bahuguna, A. 2008. Altitudinal variations in morphological characters of *Laudakia tuberculata* Hardwicke and Gray, 1827 from western Himalayas (Uttarakhand), India. *Russian Journal of Herpetology* 15: 207–211. <https://doi.org/10.30906/1026-2296-2008-15-3-207-211>.
- Baig, K.J., P. Wagner, W. Böhme, and N.B. Ananjeva. 2012. A morphology based taxonomic revision of *Laudakia* Gray, 1845 (Squamata: Agamidae). *Vertebrate Zoology* 62: 213–260. <https://doi.org/10.3897/vz.62.e31388>.
- Standar, R.I. 2023. Agamidae. *Acanthocercus atricollis* (Smith, 1849). Southern Tree Agama. Dust-bathing. *African Herp News* 82: 25–27.
- Vishwakarma, R., D. Sengupta, L. Gomes, and A.C. Momin. 2019. Notes on Kashmir Rock Agamas, *Laudakia tuberculata* (Gray 1827), from the Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary in northern India. *Reptiles & Amphibians* 26:75–76. <https://doi.org/10.17161/randa.v26i1.14352>.
- Uetz, P., P. Freed, R. Aguilar, F. Reyes, J. Kudera, and J. Hošek (eds.). 2025. *The Reptile Database*. <<http://www.reptile-database.org>>