



Uromastix hardwickii

(Gray, 1827)

Common names:
engl.: Hardwick's Spiny-tailed Lizard, Indian Mastigure
sp.: Largato de cola espinosa indo, Lagarto de cola espinosa de la India
fr.: Fouette-queue de Hardwick, Fouette-queue indien
ger.: Indische Dornschwanzagame

Scientific synonyms:
Uromastix griseus CUVIER, 1829
Uromastix reticulatus CUVIER, 1829
Uromastix grisseus – GRAY, 1831
Centrocerus griseus – FITZINGER, 1843
Uromastix similis FITZINGER, 1843

**Characteristics:**

Size: Medium sized species, maximum total length 43.8 cm, maximum SVL 23.3 cm.

Colour: Colouration of dorsum yellowish brown, with dark dots or a dark vermiculation. Ventral side white. Throat with dark dots. Anterior of the thighs with a large dark spot on either side near the insertion of the hind-leg.

Colouration of the juveniles consists of dark, regularly arranged dots on the back.

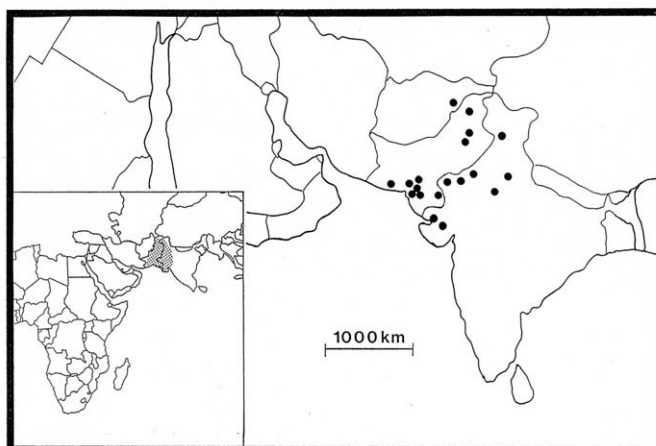
Scalation: Head small and proportionately broad. Snout short. Anterior margins of the ears with enlarged scales. Scales on the head irregularly shaped, smooth or feebly keeled, largest scales on the snout. Scales on the back very small, smooth, intermixed with some slightly enlarged tubercular scales. Limbs short and strong, dorsal parts of the hind legs with enlarged tubercular scales. Tail slightly depressed, 2-6 rows of keeled intercalary scales between each whorl.

190-275 scales around mid-body, 112-157 scales between gular and inguinal fold, 32-46 gular scales between a hypothetical line between the anterior margins of the ears and the mental scale, 24-42 scales counted from the mid of the lower end of the ear opening to the mental scale. On both sides 6-9 scales between supralabial and enlarged subocular scale. 40-52 scales around 5th whorl. 28-39 whorls. 15-21 scales beneath the longest toe of the hind legs. 12-19 preanofemoral pores on each side.

Distribution:

U. hardwickii inhabits the deserts of north-western India and Pakistan. In Afghanistan this species is known at least from the vicinity of Dialalabad (= Jalalabad)/Afghanistan).

Uromastyx hardwickii

**Population:**

Wild population: Unknown. The animals are hunted, at least regionally, for their meat, skin and grease.

Captive population: ISIS lists world-wide 8 specimens in 4 institutions (Effective day: 30.06.2000). This species is kept occasionally by private keepers in Europe and the USA. Breeding success is very rare. In October 2000 several hundred juveniles of that species occurred on the US pet trade.

Trade:

Between 1995 and 2002 the CITES Secretariat/ UNEP-WCMC registered the trade in 1.701 specimens (import) and 501 specimens (export).

Subspecies:

None.

Similar species:

None.

Bibliography:

WILMS, T. (1995): Dornschwanzagamen - Lebensweise, Pflege und Zucht. - Herpeton-Verlag, Offenbach, 130 pp.

WILMS, T. (1998): Zur Taxonomie, Zoogeographie und Phylogenie der Gattung *Uromastyx* (Sauria:Agamidae sensu lato) mit Beschreibung zweier neuer Arten aus dem südöstlichen Arabien und aus der Zentralsahara.- Universität Kaiserslautern. Incl. appendix 280 pp.