

First record of Caucasian smooth newt *Lissotriton lantzi* from Iran

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The Caucasian smooth newt *Lissotriton lantzi* (Wolterstorff, 1914), inhabits Russia, Azarbijan, Armenia, South Ossetia, Abkhazia, Georgia and Turkey (Skorinov et al., 2014). Herein we report the presence of this species in northern Iran, which is the first record in the country. Prior to this report, six urodeles species belonging to four genera were known from Iran (Safaei-Mahroo et al., 2023).

On 4 April 2023 the first record of this newt was of a live juvenile specimen on the roadside in Astaneh-ye Ashrafiyeh city, Gilan province (37° 15'29.2" N, 49° 57'11.4" E) made by the first author. Then seven months later, on 22 October 2023, we found six adults at the same location (Fig. 1). This locality is approximately 180 km from the nearest records in Azerbaijan (Fig. 2). Using published distribution data and images (Skorinov et al., 2014; 2022) we identified the newts as *Lissotriton lantzi*, which was confirmed from photographs by Barbod Safaei-Mahroo of the Pars Herpetologists Institute, Iran. Two specimens have been deposited at the Museum of Biodiversity of the Environment Department of Iran (MMTT.Z.A.AMP.0000898 & MMTT.Z.AMP.0000899).

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Figure 1. Female Caucasian smooth newt *Lissotriton lantzi* from northern Iran

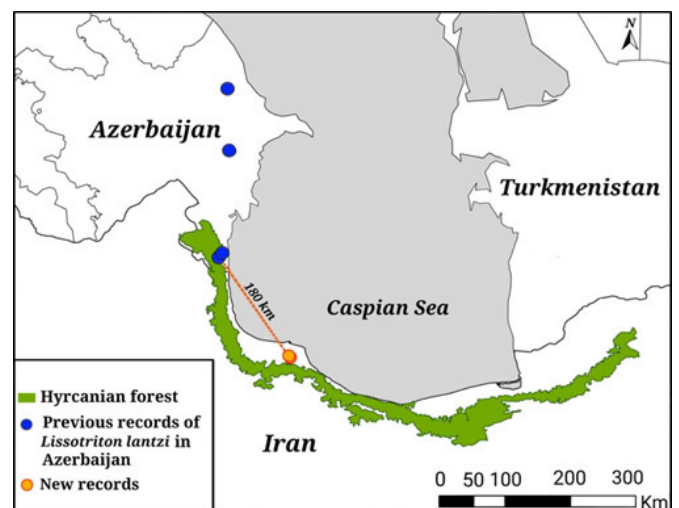


Figure 2. Known distribution of *Lissotriton lantzi*, blue circles - previous records, red circle - new record in Gilan province Iran

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