CASES OF INCOMPLETE AUTOTOMY AND TAIL REGENERATION ABNORMALITY OF THE STEPPE-RUNNER (*EREMIAS ARGUTA* (PALLAS, 1773)) AND SAND LIZARD (*LACERTA AGILIS* LINNAEUS, 1758) IN THE VOLGOGRAD REGION

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The tail regeneration frequency in 55 lizards from the Volgograd region was analyzed, among which were 12 steppe-runners (*Eremias arguta* (Pallas, 1773)) and 43 sand lizards (*Lacerta agilis* Linnaeus, 1758). The following cases of tail regenerates were observed: 0) a normal tail; 1) regeneration in the distal third; 2) a tail regenerated from the middle part; and 3) autotomy near the base (the proximal third). The majority of the lizards had normal tails (60.0% of *E. arguta* and 83.2/57.1% of *L. agilis* in females/males). Only 16.7% of the steppe-runners had regenerated tails in the distal part whereas 8.4% of females and 28.6% of males had autotomy with subsequent regeneration in the proximal third of the tail; 5.6% of females and 14.3% of males had regenerated autotomy in the distal part, and 2.8% of females had it in the middle part of the tail. Two lizards with bifurcated tails were found and described: a male of *E. arguta* and a female of *L. agilis.* A case of complicated abnormality of tail regeneration in a male of *L. agilis* is also described. An X-ray study has shown that caudal bifurcation may appear as a result of both the primary and secondary (in the cartilage tube) regeneration.
Key words: caudal bifurcation, tail regeneration, autotomy, *Lacerta agilis*, *Eremias arguta*, Volgograd region.

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