

**Taxonomy, Phylogeny and Distribution
of *Phrynocephalus* (superspecies *guttatus*) (Reptilia: Agamidae)**

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7 qualitative pholidosis characters were revealed, according to which the phylogenetic groups of spotted toad-headed agamas, *Phrynocephalus* (superspecies *guttatus*), reliably differ from each other, and a diagnostic key was designed based thereon for distinguishing representatives of the group. Molecular phylogenetic analysis of a fragment of the *COI* gene of mtDNA confirmed the differentiation of *Ph. melanurus* in two lineages; also *Ph. incertus* and *Ph. kuschakewitschi* stand apart with high supports. The subspecies *Ph. g. kalmykus* on the obtained dendrogram represents a separate lineage close to the nominative subspecies *Ph. g. guttatus*, whereas *Ph. g. salsatus*, by contrast, falls into one clade with *Ph. g. guttatus*.

Keywords: *Phrynocephalus guttatus*, molecular analysis, phylogeny, pholidosis.

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