

**A new record of the Bogdanov's thin-toed gecko,
Tenuidactylus bogdanovi (Sauria, Gekkonidae),
in South Kazakhstan**

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Short Communication

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Abstract. In the Shymkent city (South Kazakhstan) in 2019 and 2021 several specimens of Bogdanov's thin-toed gecko (*Tenuidactylus bogdanovi*) were found. The find was located 129 km north of the nearest known location in the Tashkent city in Uzbekistan. The repeated finding of Bogdanov's gecko in Shymkent confirms the eligibility of including this species in the list of herpetofauna of Kazakhstan.

Keywords: Gekkonidae, *Tenuidactylus bogdanovi*, Kazakhstan

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The Bogdanov's thin-toed gecko, *Tenuidactylus bogdanovi* (Nazarov et Poyarkov, 2013), has been described as a separate species from the polyphyletic group *Tenuidactylus fedtschenkoi* (Nazarov, Poyarkov, 2013). According to known data, the gecko inhabits Uzbekistan, eastern Turkmenistan, and it is also likely to be found in the adjacent areas of Afghanistan and southwestern Tajikistan (Nazarov, Poyarkov, 2013). The first reports on the finds of the Bogdanov's gecko on the territory of Kazakhstan were given in the article by T. N. Dujsebajeva under the specific name of the Turkestan naked-toed gecko (*T. fedtschenkoi* (Strauch, 1887)) based on the oral report of R. A. Nazarov (Dujsebajeva, 2010; Dujsebajeva et al., 2018). The find of the gecko was indicated for the territory south of the Shardara reservoir. However, since then there have been no other reports of the location of this species from the territory of Kazakhstan.

The northernmost finds of the Bogdanov's gecko belong to the city of Tashkent (Uzbekistan) (Nazarov, Poyarkov, 2013). It would have been expected to find this species in the adjacent southern border regions of Kazakhstan. However, despite the annual survey of the territories of South Kazakhstan since 2016, Bogdanov's gecko was not found.

Two Bogdanov's thin-toed geckos were found in 2019 in the private sector, located in Shymkent city center (South Kazakhstan): adult specimen (29.04.2019) (Fig. 1, *a*) and then another immature specimen (31.08.2019) (Fig. 1, *b*). Another adult was found on April 29, 2021. Geckos were observed on the same brick plastered fence around a private house during the nighttime. At the same time, the first gecko was found simultaneously with two specimens of the grey thin-toed gecko (*Mediodactylus russowii* (Strauch, 1887)). It should be noted that until 2018, gray geckos had been constantly found in this place. During the hours of activity, up to 8 individuals could be observed simultaneously. However, after the fence was plastered in the spring 2018, their hiding places decreased abruptly (Fig. 2), and the number of geckos dropped significantly. And in 2019, Bogdanov's gecko was first recorded.

New plots are being built in neighboring areas, and workers from the Republic of Uzbekistan are often involved in the construction. In this regard, we do not exclude the possibility of importing this species from Uzbekistan with construction materials or workers' belongings. Many species of geckos that live on vertical surfaces often settle on the walls of buildings

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a

b

Fig. 1. Bogdanov's thin-toed gecko adult (*a*) and immature (*b*) specimens

in settlements, including large cities. There are known cases of a successful introduction of geckos, including in settlements remote from natural habitats. For example, the Caspian gecko (*Tenuidactylus caspius* (Eichwald, 1831)) successfully settles through transport communications in Georgia, Dagestan, Armenia, Abkhazia (Kukushkin et al., 2017), and the Astrakhan region (Pestov et al., 2009). There is a known case of accidental introduction of the gray gecko to Barsa-

kelmes Island in the Aral Sea (Eliseev, 2007). Geckos colonize even in completely different climatic conditions, such as the Turkestan gecko (later redefined as Bogdanov's gecko), which was discovered in Ukraine in the city of Odessa (3000 km! from the natural range of the species) (Duz et al., 2012; Krasnylenko, Kukushkin, 2017).

The aforementioned find of Bogdanov's gecko was located 129 km north of Tashkent and about 200 km north of the first find from the vicinity of Shardaara (Dujsebayaeva, 2010). The repeated finding of Bogdanov's gecko in Shymkent confirms the eligibility of including this species in the list of herpetofauna of Kazakhstan and suggests the emergence of a full-fledged population in this region in the near future. It is necessary to conduct an additional survey of nearby settlements and habitats suitable for geckos in the territories located between Shymkent and Uzbekistan.

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Fig. 2. The fence, where gray geckos and Bogdanov's thin-toed geckos were found, before plastering

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**Новая находка геккона Богданова,
Tenuidactylus bogdanovi (Sauria, Gekkonidae)
в Южном Казахстане**

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Аннотация. В г. Шымкент (Южный Казахстан) в 2019 и 2021 гг. обнаружено несколько особей геккона Богданова (*Tenuidactylus bogdanovi*). Находка расположена на 129 км севернее ближайшего известного местонахождения в г. Ташкент в Узбекистане. Неоднократное нахождение геккона Богданова в г. Шымкент подтверждает правомочность внесения этого вида в список герпетофауны Казахстана.

Ключевые слова: Gekkonidae, *Tenuidactylus bogdanovi*, Казахстан

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