

An introduction to the literature of the vertebrate zoology of Iran

by Steven C. Anderson

Abstract. A brief introduction to the zoological literature of the vertebrates of Iran is designed to help students and professional zoologists to begin working with fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, or mammals of Iran. Publications of historical importance are included, but emphasis is on recent synoptic treatments that have extensive bibliographies and on papers that have been published subsequent to such synopses.

Kurzfassung. Diese kurze Einführung in die zoologische Literatur über den Iran ist dafür gedacht, um Studenten und professionellen Zoologen den Einstieg in die Literatur über die Fische, Amphibien, Reptilien, Vögel und Säugern des Irans zu erleichtern. Es werden Veröffentlichungen mit historischer Bedeutung mit aufgeführt, doch liegt der Schwerpunkt auf neueren synoptischen Darstellungen mit ausführlichen Bibliographien und auf Arbeiten, die im Anschluss an solche Synopsen veröffentlicht wurden.

Key words. Iran, literature, vertebrates, zoology, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, biogeography.

Introduction

A renewed interest in zoology has occurred recently in Iran; many universities now include departments of biology and zoology and are attempting to build knowledgeable faculties in these disciplines. I recently searched the *Zoological Record on CD* for the years 1978–January 2001, using the keywords ‘Iran’ or ‘Persia’. Somewhat to my surprise, I got 1540 ‘hits’ representing titles published in the past 20 years. Undoubtedly, many relevant titles were missed, but this gives some indication of the level of interest and activity in the zoology of Iran during this period. As interest in Iranian zoology increases, both in Iran and in the West, it may prove of some value to present in one place a brief introduction to the zoological literature of Iran published in Western languages. I hope that this brief paper may be useful to those in charge of library acquisitions in Iranian universities. In the present paper, only the literature of vertebrate zoology will be considered; an introduction to the invertebrate literature is contemplated for a later paper.

For the most part, I cover here only the most comprehensive publications, especially including checklists, keys, field guides, and publications that contain extensive bibliographies. I also include important current revisions at the family and generic levels and a few recent papers on more specific subjects. Emphasis is on systematics and natural history. Currently, *Encyclopaedia Iranica* is including articles on animals, and although some of these deal only or primarily with cultural and literary uses of animals, many reflect the most recent summaries of taxonomy and natural history for particular taxa, and I have cited these in the references below. For a review of faunal articles in *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, see ANDERSON (1998).