

detailed locality data (BOULENGER 1905; Pl. XXIV, Fig. 13, and text Fig. 3b) and a young female from 'Serra de Estrela' captured by Hans GADOW (BOULENGER 1905; Pl. XXIV, Fig. 11) (see also BOULENGER 1920, 1921). However, BOULENGER (1905) did not designate types of the new forms of lizards described in this work. A very similar text is repeated (without the plates or line drawings) in his "Monograph of the Lacertidae" where both specimens appear labeled as "type", both in the text (BOULENGER 1920: 269) and the list of the specimens kept in the British Museum (Natural History) (BMNH) (BOULENGER 1921: 404).

Despite the fact that both specimens obviously appear to be combined in the original description, the diagnostic characters (i.e., contact between rostral and frontonasal scales, supranasal and first loreal contact, the pattern of the vertebral band in two juxtaposed lines) and detailed photos of the head and body, as well as comparative line drawings of the cephalic scutellation (BOULENGER 1905, text Fig. 3, and Pl. XXV, Figs. 11, 12 & 13) reveal that the more carefully described larger female specimen belongs undoubtedly to the Spanish Central System populations, now *Iberolacerta cyreni* (MÜLLER & HELLMICH, 1937). From its color-pattern (which is clearly visible in the plates) it represents very probably a Guadarrama specimen (which is supported by its provenience from the Madrid Museum).

Since the original description of *I. monticola* is obviously based primarily on a Central Spanish specimen, these populations could be regarded as belonging to the nominate subspecies of this taxon, and the name *cyreni* would be a mere synonym of *monticola*. In this case, the Estrela specimens and all the populations known today as *I. monticola* should be named *I. estrellensis* (CYRÉN, 1928).

However, due to the restriction of the type locality (terra typica restricta) of *monticola* to 'Serra Estrela, Portugal' by MERTENS & MÜLLER (published 20th April 1928), the young female of Estrela should be considered as the unique type specimen of *I. monticola*, although it barely coincides in some aspects with the original description. In fact, taxon names are linked to their type specimens, and not to descriptions or

Comments about the original
description and type specimens of
Iberolacerta monticola
(BOULENGER, 1905)

The description of *Lacerta muralis* var. *monticola* by BOULENGER was primarily based upon a pair of specimens: an adult female from 'Spain' sent to him by Prof. BOLIVAR from the Madrid Museum without

diagnoses that can change over the years with the characters and techniques used at their respective times.

Just in the year when MERTENS & MÜLLER (1928) published the above mentioned restriction of the type-locality, CYRÉN (1928, exact date unknown, submitted 12th March 1928) described "*Lacerta estrellensis* from Lagoa Compridas (sic!), Sierra de Estrela (Portugal) and presented the view of considering Guadarrama the type locality of *I. monticola*. In the following years the former view (terra typica restricta 'Serra Estrella') prevailed probably because of its implementation into important checklists of European amphibians and reptiles (MERTENS & MÜLLER 1928; MERTENS & WERMUTH 1960) as well in the description of *I. cyreni* (MÜLLER & HELLMICH 1936), while the latter view was less effectively defended (CYRÉN 1934). Curiously, when describing *I. monticola cantabrica* only one year after the publication of his coauthored checklist, MERTENS (1929) decided to apply the name "*estrellensis*" to the Portuguese populations.

Based on the restriction by MERTENS & MÜLLER (1928), nothing speaks against Estrela to be considered the type locality of *I. monticola*, as has been done during the last decades. However, a lectotype was never designated. For this reason the Estrela specimen (BMNH 1885.12.30.15) shall be considered the unique type (Lectotype, by present designation) of the species, as suggested in ARRIBAS (1996). Data about this very specimen is presented in BOULENGER (1905, 1920) and a diagnosis of the species (sensu stricto) in ARRIBAS (1996).

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