

Ophisops elegans MÉNÉTRIÉS, 1832
Snake-eyed Lizard

Global range: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, Russia, Syria, and Turkey.

Distribution in Iran: Provinces of Alborz, Ardabil, East Azerbaijan, West Azerbaijan, Bushehr, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Fars, Hamadan, Ilam, Isfahan, Kerman, Kermanshah, Khuzestan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Kurdistan, Lorestan, Markazi, Mazandaran, Qazvin, Qom, Semnan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Tehran, Yazd, and Zanjan.



Fig. 255: Juvenile *Ophisops elegans*. Note circular eyes lacking movable eyelids. Kamran KAMALI



Figs. 256–257: *Ophisops elegans*, males. There is an orange stripe with several black spots on each flank. Kamran KAMALI (above), Philip GERHARDT (below)



Fig. 258: *Ophisops elegans*, female. The body is olive to brown with two pale stripes on the flanks. The lower parts are white.

Kamran KAMALI

Biology: The Snake-eyed Lizard lives in sandy plains, low-elevation mountains, hill-sides, cultivated areas and plains with salty soil. On the Central Iranian Plateau, it occurs at elevations higher than 1,000 m, but it prefers lower elevations in the more northern regions and in Mediterranean lowlands. The habitats of this species may include areas almost devoid of vegetation as well cultivated and grazed steppe regions.

Size: Snout–vent length 62 mm, tail length 104 mm.

Reproduction: Oviparous.

Status: Common.

Conservation status: IUCN: Least Concern, CITES: –, National: Non-protected.

Diet: Arachnids and insects.

Activity pattern: Diurnal.