Alburnus amirkabiri (Teleostei), a New Species of Shemaya from the Namak Lake Basin, Iran

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Abstract—Alburnus amirkabiri, new species from the Namak Lake basin, Iran, is distinguished from the other Iranian species of Alburnus by the combination of characters, including poorly expressed fleshy ventral keel which extends up to 2–4 (usually 2) transverse scales rows counted from the anus forwards; 47–59 lateral line scales, 7–13% (usually 8%) branched dorsal-fin rays, 10–12% (usually more than 10%) branched anal-fin rays, 12–17 (usually 15–16) gill rakers, predorsal distance 50.5–54.4% SL, anal-fin base length 9.0–11.7% SL, dorsal-fin depth 16.7–20.9% SL, anal-fin depth 12.0–15.6% SL, body depth at dorsal fin origin 16.9–22.2% SL, caudal peduncle depth 8.7–10.4% SL, head depth 62.2–71.9% head length, eye diameter 27.1–30.8% head length, dark lateral stripe on body.

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INTRODUCTION

Fifty-two species are recognized for today in the European and West Asian Cyprinid genus Alburnus Rafinesque, 1820 (see FishBase, 2014). This number also includes all species of Chalcathus Berg, 1933, which was proved to be a synonym of Alburnus by molecular genetic studies (Zardeya and Doadrio, 1999; Durand et al., 2002 a, b). Seven species of bleak (Alburnus s. stricto) and shemayas (Chalcathurus) are presently recorded from Iran. Caspian shemaya Alburnus chalcoides (Güldenstädt, 1772) is widely distributed mainly off southern coast of the Caspian Sea and in its rivers; Kura bleak A. filippii Kessler, 1877 is common species in the Kura-Aras basin and Sefid Rud River; North Caucasian bleak A. hochenackeri Kessler, 1877 is recorded from the Aras River to the Atrek River along the Caspian coast of Iran; A. atropatene Berg, 1925 is endemic to the Lake Orumiyeh basin; A. caeruleus Heckel, 1843 is reported from the Tigris-Euphrates system (was described from Sefid Rud River drainage); A. mosulensis Heckel, 1843 was found in the Tigris-Euphrates system, and some other freshwater systems of the Persian Gulf basin;

A. zagrosensis Coad, 2009 was described from the upper Karun River basin (Berg, 1949; Bianco, Bădăreanu, 1987; Holčik and Oldřich, 1992; Bogutskaya, 1997; Kiabi et al., 1999; Abdoli, 2000; Abdoli and Naderi, 2009; Esmaili et al., 2011; Zareian et al., 2013; Coad, 2014). According to Bogutskaya (1997) A. mosulensis may be a synonym of A. zelati Heckel, 1843.

Another two species described from central Iran are treated as fishes of "uncertain provenance and validity" (Coad, 2009). One of them, A. dorato de Filippi, 1865 was probably described from south of Shiraz ("dintorni di Schinza"), but "fish resembling this species have not been caught there in late twentieth and early twenty-first century" (Coad, 2014). Another species A. maculatus Keyserling, 1861 was described from northeast of Esfahan. This name is objectively invalid, preoccupied by Alburnus maculatus Kessler, 1859 (= Alburnoides maculatus according to Bogutskaya and Coad, 2009). No types of A. maculatus Keyserling are saved, no further findings are recorded (Catalog of Fishes..., 2014).

Khataminejad et al. (2013) first found several bleak specimens in the Namak Lake basin (central Iran) and identified them as A. atropatene, based on meristic counts. Further morphological investigations demon-
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**REFERENCES**


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