



## Catalogue of the available scientific species-group names for lizards of the genus *Phrynocephalus* Kaup, 1825 (Reptilia, Sauria, Agamidae)

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### Abstract

This paper is a review of the specific taxonomy of the lizard genus *Phrynocephalus* Kaup, 1825. From 1771 to 2002, 140 species were either described as members of this genus, or of other genera but subsequently referred to this genus. We have tried to review all the available information on the taxonomic status of these 140 names and the status of their name-bearing types. As a result of this review, 114 types are known to be extant, including 22 lectotypes and 5 neotypes designated in the present paper. As a conclusion of this preliminary analysis, we provisionally distribute these 140 names in 37 valid species names in the genus *Phrynocephalus*, 102 invalid synonyms of the latter names, and 1 nominal species now referred to another genus. The new subgenus *Oreosaura* **subgen. nov.** is described to accommodate viviparous species from Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau.

**Key words:** Reptilia, Sauria, Agamidae, *Phrynocephalus*, nomenclature, systematics  
Nomina si nectis perit et cognito rerum **Carolus Linnaeus**

### Introduction

It is hard to find a more taxonomically complicated group than the genus *Phrynocephalus* Kaup, 1825 among Palearctic lizards. Since the description of *Lacerta helioscopa* by Pallas in 1771, the highly polymorphic toad headed agamas from Middle and Central Asia have stimulated the description of numerous forms as species and/or subspecies. More than two hundred years later, when it became obvious that in Asia this morphological