

## The Type Locality of *Agkistrodon halys caraganus*

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Wolfgang Böhme (1991) called attention to an error in the designation of the type locality for *Agkistrodon halys caraganus* (Eichwald). Inasmuch as Böhme's correction appears in German in the midst of his long, detailed review of the *Agkistrodon* complex by Gloyd and Conant (1990), and thus may be overlooked, it seems advisable to summarize the facts briefly in English. Eichwald (1831), in describing *caraganus*, wrote "Hab. in ora orientali caspii maris Tjuk-karaganensi ..." In 1969, when Dr. Gloyd transferred his major attention from the North American members of the genus to those of the Old World, he searched diligently but failed to find any locality on any map of Asia available to him that matched the one given by Eichwald (*fide* Kathryn J. Gloyd, who assisted him with his bibliographical work). He eventually interpreted the locality as Karaganda, north of Lake Balkhash, because of its similar spelling and its location within the range of the taxon as implied from the list given by Paraskiv (1956). The type locality for *caraganus* was thus stated and mapped in Gloyd and Conant (1990) as Karaganda. It is unfortunate, during my own lengthy and much later study on *caraganus*, that I did not compare Eichwald's original statement with more recently published maps. In the (London) Times Atlas of the World, on

plate 46, Mys Tjub Karagan (Cape Karagan Hill) appears at the tip of the Mangyshlak Peninsula on the eastern side of the Caspian Sea. This is certainly the equivalent of Eichwald's "Tjuk-karaganensi," as Bohme pointed out. The type locality for *Agkistrodon halys caraganus* is on the eastern edge of the Caspian Sea in Kazakhstan and not at the city of Karaganda.

### Literature Cited

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