

LACERTA SCINCOIDES.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Corpus tetrapodum, caudatum, nudum.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 359.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

LACERTA squamis rotundatis, cauda tereti mediocri, pedibus brevibus, digitis brevissimis.

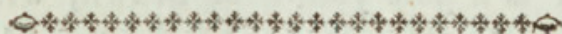
Longitudo sesquipedalis. Color griseus, lateribus fusco inquinatis. Caput scutis largioribus angulatis teclum. Crura brevia. Pedes brevissimi, unguibus brevibus. Lingua lata, rotundata, nec forficata.

Lacertarum nonnullæ sunt species quæ ab aliis sui generis discrepant, eo quod, piscium more, squamis magnis et rotundatis contextæ sint. In harum numero est *Lacerta Scincus* Linnæi, quæ olim in materia medica usurpari solita est, et communiter nomine Scinci cognoscitur. Alia species est a Linnæo non nominata (nisi forte Linnæi *aurata* eadem sit) sed cujus meminerunt Sloane et Browne in historia sua insulæ Jamaicæ, descripseruntque nomine

Galliwasp. Tertia est lacerta maritima maxima, quam repræsentat figura quarta tabulæ centesimæ quintæ Sebæ thesauri volumine secundo. Ad hujus lacertæ similitudinem tam prope accedit hæc nostra, ut dubitari jure possit an revera sit diversa, an potius pro varietate tantum reputanda. Caudam tamen paulo breviorē habet quam illa de qua jam diximus. Lingua non, ut in plerisque, bifurca, sed rotundata, brevis, et lata. Dentes modici, paululum obtusi brevesque. Color est pallide fusco-flavescent; collo utrinque adjicitur macula longa, fusca seu potius nigricans. Eodem quoque colore tinguntur latera, qui tamen in cauda est saturatior. In specimine multo juniore cauda virgis numerosis fuscis pene nigricantibus transverse fasciata est. In quibusdam quoque speciminibus apici caudæ addita est appendix, caudæ alteri non abfimilis, quam arbitrantur nonnulli sexus differentiam indicare, et mari esse peculiarem. Longe tamen verisimilius existimo aliud nihil esse hanc appendicem præter caudæ olim mutilatæ et dein redintegratæ fortuitam et adventitiam divaricationem. Lacertarum enim caudas vi aliqua læsas et abruptas repullulare posse, ab experimentis scriptisque physicorum certissime probatum est. Australasiam incolit lacerta scincoides, et plerumque longitudine est prope sesquipedali.



THE SCINCOID LIZARD.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Body four-footed, tailed, naked.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

LIZARD with rounded scales, short legs and extremely short toes.

There are some species of Lizards which differ from the rest of the tribe in being covered with large rounded scales, resembling those of fishes. One of these is the *Lacerta Scincus* of Linnæus, or the animal formerly used in the *materia medica*, and called the Scink. Another is a species not mentioned by Linnæus, but described by Sloane and Browne in their respective histories of Jamaica by the name of *Galliwasp*. A third is the *Lacerta maritima maxima* of Seba, which is figured in the second volume of his *Thesaurus rerum naturalium* at plate 105, fig. 4. It is to this last that the species here represented bears the greatest affinity: indeed so great as scarcely to justify our regarding it as a distinct species: the tail however is somewhat shorter than in Seba's animal. The tongue is not
forked,

forked, as in the generality of lizards, but is broad, flat, and rounded. The teeth rather small than large, somewhat obtuse, and short. The colour of the animal is a pale yellowish brown, with a long patch or mark of very deep brown or blackish on each side the neck. The sides are also tinged with the same colour, and the tail more deeply so than the sides. In a much smaller specimen of the same animal the tail had the appearance of being fasciated with a number of transverse bars of deep brown. In some specimens the tail, towards the end, is furnished with a sort of process or appendage, resembling a secondary tail, as it were, and it has been imagined that this might be a sexual distinction; and perhaps peculiar to the male: but it seems infinitely more probable that such an appearance is owing to mere accident; it being a well-known fact that the tails of lizards, when injured, or mutilated by accidental violence, frequently reproduce in different directions; of which numerous examples may be seen in the works of natural historians. The Scincoid Lizard is a native of New Holland, and is commonly about eighteen inches in length.



Shaw, George. 1794. "The Scincoid Lizard, *Lacerta scincoides* [Pl. 179]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 5(LIV), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.310758>.

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