

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW LIZARD OF THE GENUS *SCELOPORUS* FROM
TEXAS.

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When Mr. Vernon Bailey wrote his "Biological Survey of Texas" (N. Amer. Fauna, No. 25, 1905), I identified five specimens collected by Mr. Wm. Lloyd at Lomita Ranch, six miles north of Hidalgo, in the extreme southern corner of Texas, as *Sceloporus dispar* Baird and Girard. This name Dr. Boulenger (Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus., vol. 2, 1885, p. 232) had placed, and as I now believe correctly so, in the synonymy of *Sceloporus microlepidotus*. The Texas specimens differed, however, in some respects from the latter species, and under the misapprehension that the type of *S. dispar* was of northern origin, while in reality it came from Vera Cruz, Mexico, I applied the latter name to the Texas form (N. Amer. Fauna, No. 25, 1905, p. 42).

A critical review of this and additional material of *S. microlepidotus* from northern Mexico has led to different and rather interesting results.

In the first place it turns out that the two specimens in British Museum from Duval Co., Texas, and Nuevo Leon, both collected by Mr. Wm. Tayler and identified by Boulenger (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1897, p. 485) as *Sceloporus ornatus* Baird, do not belong to this species at all, but are identical with the Hidalgo specimens. *Sceloporus ornatus*, the type of which (U. S. N. M. No. 2845) is before me, belongs to a totally different group of the genus, viz., the *S. torquatus* group. It is a much larger species (snout to vent 80 mm.) and has much shorter toes (fourth toe from base of fifth considerably shorter than distance from snout to ear). It differs from the other species of the *S. torquatus* group by having much smaller scales (12 dorsal scales corresponding to the length of the shielded part of the

head, and 60 scales between the interparietal shield and the base of the tail).

A comparison with specimens of *S. microlepidotus* from southern and central Mexico shows, moreover, that the Hidalgo specimens, although being closely related to this species, are sufficiently distinct to deserve recognition nomenclatorially, as is also evident from the fact that Boulenger considered the two forms so distinct that he placed them in different sections of the genus. I may add that I fail to realize the distinction in the dorsal lepidosis implied in the description of the two forms by Boulenger, *S. ornatus* being described as having "dorsal scales forming parallel longitudinal series," while *S. microlepidotus* is said to have them "forming oblique longitudinal series converging toward the median line." As far as I can see, the scutellation is essentially alike and of the latter type.

***Sceloporus disparilis* sp. nov.**

Diagnosis.—Lateral scales directed obliquely upwards and backwards, and passing gradually into the dorsals; series of femoral pores widely separated, not meeting on the preanal region; tail cylindrical; head shields smooth; distance between base of fifth toe and extremity of the fourth slightly exceeding distance between the end of snout and posterior border of ear; 52–65 scales between the interparietal shield and the base of the tail, 15–17 corresponding to the length of the shielded part of the head.

Range.—Extreme southern corner of Texas and northeastern Mexico.

Type.—United States National Museum, No. 33,041; Lomita Ranch, six miles north of Hidalgo, Texas, June 17, 1891; Wm. Lloyd, collector, U. S. Biological Survey.

Description.—*Type*: Adult male. Head-shields smooth; two canthal scales between the posterior of which three larger prefrontal shields across the snout; frontal shield divided transversely; posterior frontal broadly in contact with interparietal; interparietal very large, much broader than long and fused with the parietals; five large transverse supraorbitals separated from the frontals and interparietal by a single series of scales and from the superciliaries by a double row of scales; six supralabials separated from the nasals and from the long subocular by a single row of scales, fifth supralabial under the center of the eye; anterior border of the ear-opening protected by about five small slightly projecting scales; dorsal scales about the same size as ventrals, rounded behind, distinctly keeled, forming slightly oblique longitudinal series converging towards the median line back of the shoulders; about 65 scales along the middle line of the back from the shielded part of the head to the base of the tail; 17 scales in the middle of the back corresponding to the shielded part of the head; lateral scales directed upwards and backwards scarcely

different in size from the dorsals; ventral scales smooth rounded behind, entire; scales on throat distinctly smaller than ventrals; adpressed hind limb reaches the anterior border of the ear; tibia slightly shorter than the shielded part of the head; the distance between the base of the fifth toe and extremity of the fourth exceeds by a half millimeter the distance between the end of the snout and the ear; 16–17 femoral pores; caudal scales much larger than dorsals, the keels ending in a point beyond the posterior border of the scales; two enlarged postanal scales.

Color (in alcohol) above olive gray with faint indications of two narrow disconnected longitudinal black lines on the back and a few similar zigzaggy cross lines, the anterior of which extends downwards in front of the insertion of the forelegs so as to form a narrow interrupted black collar; on the side of the neck from the ear to the shoulder joint a rather broad blackish spot crossing this line; underside whitish, the throat with a number of longitudinal narrow dusky lines; sides of belly blue with a well-defined inner edge of bluish-black leaving only a narrow space of white in the middle.

Dimensions.—Total length 103 mm.; tip of snout to vent 45 mm.; tip of snout to ear 10.5 mm.

Variation.—The greatest variation in the series before me is in the parietal shields. In the type and in specimen No. 33,042 there are no parietals or fronto-parietals as distinct from the interparietal, while in the other three specimens these shields are all separate. The parietals and fronto-parietals in these are smaller than the frontals and pre-frontals; in all the posterior frontal and the interparietal are broadly in contact. The variation of proportion and size of scales, femoral pores, etc., will be seen from the subjoined table. The variation in color is, in the males, chiefly confined to the arrangement of the dusky lines on the throat which in the other specimens assumes the aspect of an irregular marbling rather than longitudinal lines. The two females are distinguished, besides the absence of postanal shields, by a much more distinct color pattern on the upper parts of the body and by the absence of the blue black-edged patches on the side of the belly; the black lines on the back in these appear more like narrow transverse zigzaggy lines, one between the shoulders, one between the hind legs and two in the space between; head and limbs with similar narrow blackish cross lines.

Remarks.—There can be but little doubt that the form here described is closely related to *Sceloporus microlepidotus*, but there is as yet no indication of any intergradation with the latter species. A number of specimens in the National Museum from Colonia Garcia, Chihuahua, No. 26,598 and Nos. 26,910–11, as well as a specimen from Buena Vista, Coahuila, records which materially extend northwards the known range of *S. microlepidotus*, show indications of slightly larger scales than specimens from southern Mexico, but the difference is plainly within the individual variation exhibited by the series recorded by Boulenger (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1897, p. 510). The Chihuahua specimens, moreover, examined by me having only 12–14 femoral pores against 14–18 in the southern series, but inasmuch as the number of femoral

pores in *S. disparilis* varies between 12 and 17, this discrepancy does not seem to be of any importance.

For the sake of comparison with *Sceloporus microlepidotus*, I submit the following averages taken from the 32 specimens of the latter recorded by Boulenger (P. Z. S., 1897, p. 510): Snout to ear-opening, 12.4 mm.; fourth toe from base of fifth, 15; scales, occiput to tail, 73.7; scales in head length, 17.1; scales round middle, 69.8; femoral pores, 16.2. These should be compared with the averages of *Sceloporus dispar* given in the following table:

Record of Specimens of Sceloporus disparilis.

Museum No.	Sex and age.	Locality.	When collected.	By whom collected.	Snout to vent. mm.	Shield part of head. mm.	Snout to ear-opening. mm.	Tibia. mm.	Fourth toe from base of fifth. mm.	Scales, occip. to tail.	Scales in head-length.	Scales, round middle.	Femoral pores.
U. S. N. M.													
33041 *	♂ ad.	Lomita Ranch, Tex.	June 17, 1891	Wm. Lloyd	45	10	10.5	9	11	65	17	63?	16-17
33042	♂ ad.	"	June 17, 1891	"	48	11	11	9	11	52	15	63	14-15
33043	♀ ad.	"	June 14, 1891	"	43	10	10	9	10	55	16	58	12-14
33044	♀ ad.	"	June 13, 1891	"	42	10	10.5	8	10.5	60	17	50	13-
33045	♂ ad.	"	June 17, 1891	"	51	11	11	9	11.5	57	16	64	.
Brit. M.†	♂	Nuevo Leon	Wm. Taylor	55	12	14	12	14	60	16	60	16-17
"	♀	Duval Co., Tex.	"	46	11	12	10	12	63	15	64	16-17
				Average			11.3		11.4	59	16	60.3	15.2

* Type. † P. Z. S., 1897, p. 485.



Stejneger, Leonhard. 1916. "A new lizard of the genus *Sceloporus* from Texas." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 29, 227–230.

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