

11.—*Description of a New South African Lizard of the genus Eremias.*

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EREMIAS ASPERA, sp. n.

Head and body rather strongly depressed. Head $1\frac{1}{3}$ times as long as broad, its length 4 to $4\frac{1}{4}$ times in length to vent, its depth equal to the distance between the centre of the eye and the tympanum; snout obtusely pointed, with the nasals very feebly swollen, as long as the postocular part of the head; a feeble concavity in the middle of the upper surface of the snout, extending to the middle of the frontal shield. Pileus nearly twice as long as broad. Neck a little narrower than the head. Hind limb reaching the collar or a little beyond; foot $1\frac{1}{4}$ times as long as the head; toes rather slender, feebly compressed. Tail twice or a little less than twice as long as head and body.

Upper head-shields flat, very rugose, with granular asperities. Nasals in contact with each other behind the rostral, the suture between them $\frac{1}{6}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ the length of the frontonasal, which is a little broader than long; praefrontals as long as broad or longer than broad, separated by an azygos shield; frontal a little shorter than its distance from the end of the snout, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{2}{3}$ times as long as broad, separated from the supraoculars by a series of small scales; parietals as long as broad; interparietal larger than the frontoparietals, in contact with or narrowly separated from a very small occipital. Two supraoculars, together hardly $\frac{2}{5}$ the length of the supraocular region, the first shorter than the second, the space in front of them filled by 4 or 5 transverse series of granules; 6 or 7 superciliaries, separated from the supraoculars by 2 or 3 series of granules. Three nasals, lower in contact with the rostral and the first upper labial; anterior loreal as long as deep or a little deeper than long, shorter than the second; 4 or 5 upper labials anterior to the subocular, which is keeled below the eye and largely borders the mouth, its lower border much narrower than the upper. Temporal scales granular, keeled; no

tympanic shield; no auricular denticulation. Lower eyelid with a transparent disc formed of two large black-edged scales.

4 pairs of chin-shields, the first 3 in contact in the middle.

31 or 32 gular scales in a straight line between the symphysis of the chin-shields and the median collar-plate; no gular fold. Collar straight, free, composed of 11 plates.

Scales granular and keeled on the nape, rhombic, feebly imbricate, and strongly keeled on the body, graduating into the caudals, larger and smooth towards the ventrals; 51 to 56 scales across the middle of the body. Ventral plates in 12 or 14 rather irregular longitudinal and 33 to 37 rather angular transverse series, the plates as long as broad or a little broader than long. Praeanal region covered with small irregular plates.

Scales on upper surface of fore limb moderately large, keeled.

Scales on upper surface of tibia rhombic, feebly imbricate, keeled, as large as the posterior dorsals; one series of very large and one of small plates on the lower surface; 13 or 14 femoral pores on each side. Subdigital lamellae bicarinate, spinulose, 21 under the fourth toe.

Upper caudal scales oblique, truncate behind, strongly and diagonally keeled, basal subcaudals feebly keeled; 24 or 26 scales in the fourth or fifth whorl.

Pale greyish-brown above, with 2 dorsal and 2 lateral darker bands, and 4 series of whitish, brown-edged ocellar spots on the back; a white streak below the dark lateral band, from below the eye, through the tympanum, to the groin; tail yellowish with a brown lateral streak in the anterior half. Lower parts white.

Measurements:

From end of snout to vent	.	.	.	51 millim.
" " fore limb	.	.	.	20 "
Head	.	.	.	12 "
Width of head	.	.	.	9 "
Depth of head	.	.	.	6 "
Fore limb	.	.	.	19 "
Hind limb	.	.	.	33 "
Foot	.	.	.	15 "
Tail	.	.	.	102 "

Habitat.—Bechuanaland. Described from two female specimens from Mochudi, received by the South African Museum from Mr. J. Fenton, along with examples of *Eremias lugubris* and *Ichnotropis capensis* from the same locality.

This species is closely related to the typical *E. lineo-ocellata*, differing in the very rugose upper head-shields, the absence of projecting scales

in front of the ear, and the lower number of subdigital lamellae (21 instead of 24 to 28). The number of scales across the body is low (51 or 56 as against 53 to 73), as compared with *E. lineo-ocellata*, in which I have counted the scales in 64 specimens and find only 8 with less than 57. A further difference resides in the chin-shields, of which the 3 anterior pairs are in contact in the middle, instead of 2, as is the rule in *E. lineo-ocellata*.



Boulenger, George Albert. 1917. "Description of a new South African lizard of the genus *Eremias*." *Annals of the South African Museum. Annale van die Suid-Afrikaanse Museum* 13, 217–219.

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