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Notes on Two New Guinean Lizards of the Genus *Sphenomorphus*

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A recent paper (Inger, 1958) describing a new species of *Sphenomorphus* from New Guinea failed to compare the new form, *melanopleurus*, with *variegatum stickeli* Loveridge, also from New Guinea. I wish to thank Dr. Ernest E. Williams, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ), for calling my attention to the omission in my 1958 paper and for the loan of material in his care.

It is in the absence of a black lateral band on the head and body that *stickeli* differs most conspicuously from *melanopleurus*. The original description of *stickeli* noted that the form had "little black on the flanks" (Loveridge, 1948), a statement confirmed by my examination of the holotype and five paratypes (MCZ 49326-29, 49615-16: four males, one female, and one juvenile). None had a black stripe from the snout to the eye, whereas 34 out of 36 paratypes of *melanopleurus* did (see Inger, 1958, fig. 45). Three of the *stickeli* had a more or less continuous black band on the side of the head and neck as compared to 29 out of 36 *melanopleurus*. None of the *stickeli* had a stripe on the side of the body, whereas 29 of 36 *melanopleurus* did. Six of the 7 *melanopleurus* lacking the lateral band were females; but the difference between the two forms in this character cannot be explained on the basis of sexual dimorphism, as most of the *stickeli* were males.

The posteroventral corner of the groin bears a small dark spot in the six *stickeli* but not in any of the *melanopleurus*. In most scale counts the two forms are similar (Table 1). The only significant difference in counts appeared in the number of scale rows around the body: 42-44 in 5 *stickeli*, 38-42 in 22 *melanopleurus*, only one of which had 42. Loveridge (op. cit.) noted that none of the 16 *stickeli* he had seen had less than 42 scale rows.

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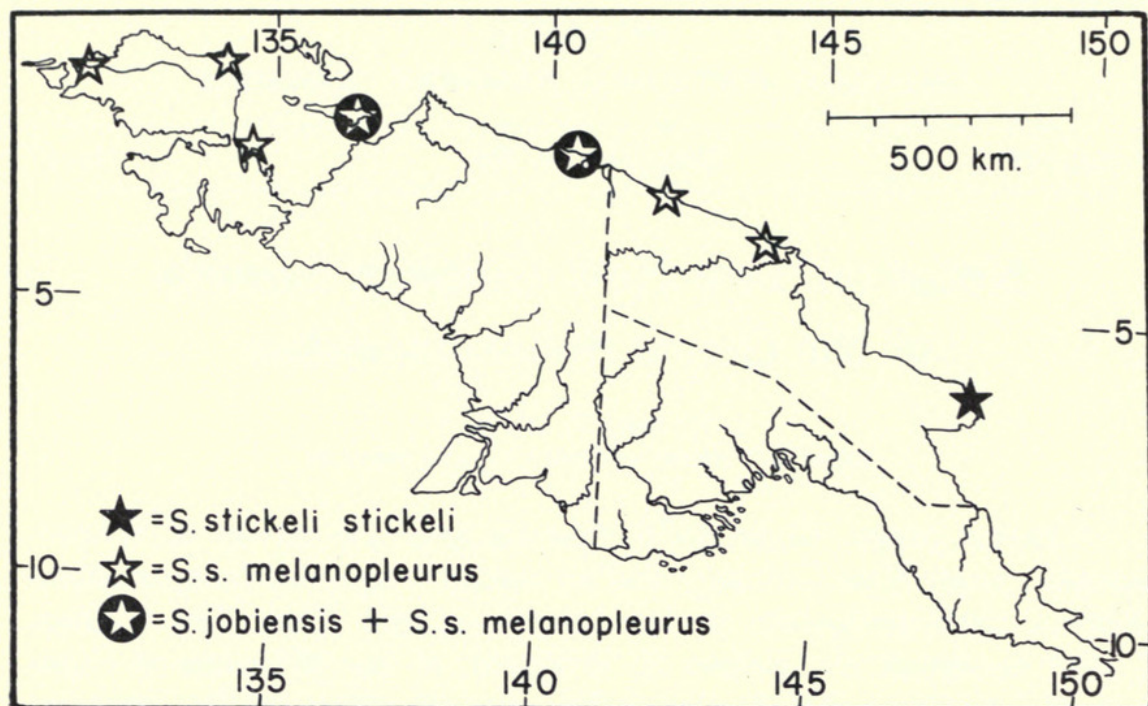


FIG. 102. Distribution of *Sphenomorphus stickeli* on New Guinea and Jobi Island.

In the same paper, Loveridge referred to another series of *Sphenomorphus* under the name *variegatum jobiense* Meyer. All but two of Loveridge's 11 specimens of this form have been examined. The collections of Chicago Natural History Museum (CNHM) contain six specimens (43083, 43086, 43096, 43099–101) from Hollandia, New Guinea, agreeing with Meyer's brief description of *jobiensis*. One (CNHM 43096) has a snout-vent length of 65.2 mm.; the others are 84.2–93.7 mm. Their counts are given in Table 1. Dr. H. Wermuth, of the Zoologisches Museum, Berlin, has kindly re-examined the holotype of *jobiensis* and writes that it has a snout-vent length of 85 mm. and 5 supraoculars. According to Meyer's description (1874), the black lateral stripe ran under the eye and then forward on the snout; the same pattern appears in the six *jobiensis* I have examined.

Loveridge's specimens labeled *jobiense* (MCZ 7701–4, 7706, 27944, 49248–9) measured 38.0–48.7 mm. snout-to-vent, and as one female (46.3 mm.) contained enlarged ova, they must be considered as adult. They had 6–7 supraoculars, 73–92 ventrals, 38–40 scale rows, 22–25 lamellae under the fourth toe, and 7–8 supralabials. The black lateral stripe does not run under the eye. They thus differ from true *jobiensis* in size, in numbers of supraoculars, ventrals, and supra-

TABLE 1.—Frequency Distributions with Respect to Six Characters of Several Papuan Forms of *Sphenomorphus*

	Supralabials				Infralabials				Supraoculars				Scale rows						
	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
<i>stickeli</i>.....	..	5	..	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	4	..	1
<i>melanopleurus</i>	4	21	3	..	16	12	1	..	..	5	20	1	5	2	12	2	1	..	..
<i>jobiensis</i>.....	..	1	4	1	..	2	1	1	6	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	1

	Ventrals (class centers)										Lamellae of fourth toe									
	81	84	87	90	93	96	99	102	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	27	26	25
<i>stickeli</i>.....	..	3	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
<i>melanopleurus</i>	4	6	10	5	3	..	..	..	2	5	1	9	5	3	5	2	5	3	5	2
<i>jobiensis</i>.....	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..

labials, and in coloration. In size, coloration, and counts they agree with *melanopleurus* and must be so identified.

With the addition of these specimens, the range of *melanopleurus* (fig. 102) extends from the western tip of New Guinea along the northern coast as far eastward as the mouth of the Sepik River. It is apparently replaced by *stickeli* on the Huon Peninsula farther to the east. As *stickeli* differs from *variegatus* Peters just as does *melanopleurus*, namely, in coloration and in numbers of supralabials, supraoculars, ventrals, and lamellae under the fourth toe (cf. Inger, 1958, Table 1), *stickeli* cannot be regarded as conspecific with *variegatus*. However, the differences between *stickeli* and *melanopleurus* noted above are not great and these two forms are best treated as subspecies: *S. stickeli stickeli* Loveridge and *S. stickeli melanopleurus* Inger. Both *jobiensis* and *stickeli* have been collected at Hollandia, New Guinea (CNHM 43082-96, 43099-101) and on Jobi Island (holotype of *jobiensis* and MCZ 7704), localities 500 kilometers apart. Their sympatric distributions and their relatively great morphological differences argue for recognizing them as distinct species.

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