

A NEW SCINCID LIZARD FROM THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

By LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

Curator, Division of Reptiles and Batrachians, U. S. National Museum.

A small collection of reptiles recently received from Maj. J. M. T. Partello, U. S. Army, contained several interesting specimens, among them a strikingly conspicuous *Tropidophorus*, which represents a hitherto undescribed species, and which I take great pleasure in dedicating to its discoverer in recognition of his valuable contributions to our knowledge of the fauna of Mindanao.

TROPIDOPHORUS PARTELLOI, new species.

Diagnosis.—Dorsals strongly keeled; fronto-parietals distinct; a single large preanal; fifth and sixth supralabials largest and entering orbit; scales on dorsal and lateral sides of tail forming large erect spines not arranged in whorls or series.

Habitat.—Mindanao, Philippine Islands.

Type-specimen.—Cat. No. 39308, U.S.N.M.; Mataling River Falls, 1,400 feet altitude, Cotabato Province, western Mindanao; December 12, 1908; Maj. J. M. T. Partello, U. S. Army, collector.

Description of type-specimen.—Adult male. Upper head shields smooth; fronto-nasal broader than long; prefrontals broadly in contact; frontal as long as fronto-parietals and interparietal together, in contact with two anterior supraoculars; five supraoculars, first longest, fifth smallest, second in contact with fronto-parietal; two anterior supraciliaries larger, followed by five very small ones, none behind the suture between third and fourth supraocular; fronto-parietals separate, shorter than interparietal; parietals not in contact behind interparietal; nostril a round hole in the middle of a single nasal, which is followed by two loreals, one behind the other; behind the orbit three vertical rows of small scales followed by two rows of large temporal shields; between these and the unprotected ear-opening several rows of scales keeled vertically; seven supralabials, the anterior four low and slightly increasing in size backward, the fifth suddenly much higher, but not much wider, sixth and seventh nearly as large; fifth supralabial under the center of the eye, sixth just touching the orbit anteriorly, and both separated from the orbital scales by a single row of small scales, smaller than the posterior supracilia-

ries; four lower labials, first very small, second and third excessively elongate, together nearly as long as five supralabials; a large unpaired postmental followed by three pairs of large submandibulars, the two anterior pairs of which are in contact on the middle line; ear-opening oval, slightly smaller than eye-opening; 32 scales around the middle of the body; nine dorsals in the shielded part of the head; dorsals and laterals strongly keeled and on the posterior half of the body strongly mucronate, the keels of the dorsals forming six straight lines on the back, the laterals forming numerous oblique lines converging toward the sacrum; ventrals smooth, much smaller than dorsals, about fifteen in a head length; a single very large preanal plate; legs covered above with strongly keeled and mucronate scales; third finger nearly as long as fourth; subdigital lamellæ smooth, 24 under the fourth toe; extended hind leg reaches beyond the elbow; tail slightly compressed with six series of very strong mucronate keels at base, this arrangement soon giving way to a mass of high, nearly vertical spines, each one occupying the whole scale, and all nearly the same size, there being no pronounced serial nor verticillate arrangement; tail underneath with a series of smooth, wide plates, on each side with a single series of mucronate scales; length of tail not one and one-half the length of body. Color (in alcohol) above vandyke-brown, more sooty on the sides, with about eight irregular and more or less interrupted, narrow, pale cross bars; tail with indications of similar pale cross bars; fingers and toes with very distinct cross bars of dark and pale brown of about equal width; head above and on sides uniform glossy brown; throat and lower neck more grayish brown, a narrow pale line crossing the commissure from the third supralabial and another from the fifth across the submandibulars to the throat; underside of abdomen, legs, and basal portion of tail pale, the terminal two-thirds dark brown like the upper side; scale-row nearest subcaudals pale, forming a pale line on more than basal half of tail.

Dimensions.

	<i>mm.</i>
Total length (tip of tail regenerated).....	212
Tip of snout to vent.....	105
Tip of snout to ear-opening.....	25
Width of head.....	19
Vent to tip of tail (regenerated).....	107
Fore leg.....	34
Hind leg.....	46

Remarks.—The most striking feature of this interesting species is the extraordinary spiny tail. The spines, 2 to 2.5 mm. high and very pointed, stand out in all directions, presenting a most formidable appearance, only second to the highly prickly armature of the upper side of the hind legs. This feature alone will distinguish the species from all others hitherto known.



Stejneger, Leonhard. 1910. "A new scincid lizard from the Philippine Islands." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* 39(1776), 97–98.
<https://doi.org/10.5479/si.00963801.1776.97>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/53443>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5479/si.00963801.1776.97>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/51969>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.