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DESCRIPTION OF AN APPARENTLY NEW LIZARD  
FROM COLOMBIA

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A collection of reptiles and amphibians received from Senor Hermano Nicéforo Maria, Medellin, Colombia, contains several representatives of an apparently undescribed teiid lizard. The family Teiidae is evidently in need of revision, but as at present understood the species is to be referred to the genus *Prionodactylus*.

***Prionodactylus marianus*, new species**

*Diagnosis:* Head scales normal; frontonasal undivided; nostril pierced in an undivided, often deeply grooved, nasal; supraoculars 2 or 3; 31-39 scales around the middle of the body; 30-31 dorsal scales between the occiput and the groin; ventral scales in eight longitudinal rows, all smooth, 19-20



scales between the collar and groin. Color (in alcohol) above olive or olive brown with two dark brown or black stripes from the snout to the base of the tail; a narrow white line from the end of the snout to the arm insertion, sometimes faintly continued to the groin; below bluish or lead color with or without black spots.

*Habitat:* Colombia.

*Type Specimen:* Cat. No. 56037, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan; San Pedro, Colombia; March 25, 1921; H. N. Maria, collector.

*Description of Type Specimen:* Upper head shields slightly rugose; frontonasal single; prefrontals broadly in contact; parietals and interparietals subequal in size; 6 scales, 4 anterior and 2 posterior, form an occipital group; 3 supraoculars on one side and 2 on the other; loreal present; 6 lower labials; 6 upper labials; chin shields large, 1 anterior and 4 pairs, the first two pairs forming a suture, the third pair separated by 3 scales and the fourth by 7 scales. Two longitudinal rows of enlarged gular scales; 5 collar shields. Thirty-four scales around the middle of the body; dorsal scales lanceolate, strongly keeled and often tricarinate on the body, on the neck becoming shorter, broader and less strongly keeled toward the head, behind the occipitals rounded and striated; 31 scales from parietals to groin; lateral scales small and bluntly keeled; ventral scutes large, all smooth, in 20 rows from the collar to the groin; 2 enlarged preanal scales.

Color above brownish olive with two dorsal, longitudinal, black stripes extending from the snout on to the posterior part of the tail, where they are broken up into spots; a few black



spots on the sides; a white line from the end of the snout extends beneath the eye and ear nearly to the arm insertion; below dark slate color, the scales on the abdomen margined posteriorly with black.

Total length, 115 mm.; length of head and body, 45 mm.; length of head (to ear), 10.5 mm.

*Notes on Paratypes:* The most variable character is the number of rows of scales around the body, this number varying from 31 to 39. This variation seems to be associated with differences in the number of small lateral scales. The enlarged scales on the occiput are differently arranged and vary in size, but a common grouping is a large scale on each side of a small one followed by two large ones. The head shields are rugose or striated in all specimens. The preanals are two, except that in two specimens there is a long, narrow scale on the outer side of each large one. Usually the supraoculars are two, of which the first is the larger and in contact with the prefrontals. In two specimens there are three supraoculars on each side, the first the largest and in contact with the prefrontals; in another, the type, a small one is, on one side, interposed between the large one and the prefrontal. The two dark brown or black stripes may begin at the tip or on the base of the snout and are generally separated from each other by the width of two or two and a half scales. The stripe between the black ones is generally wider on the head and neck and is often paler than the ground color of the body. The black stripes are irregularly defined below, and there are usually present some black spots on the flanks which may represent a band between the axilla and groin. The white line

on the side of the head and neck is always present, and in one specimen it is continued on the body as a faint line to the hind limb.

*Remarks:* This species recalls *P. vertebralis* (O'Shaughnessy) and *P. ockendeni* Boulenger, and it should be pointed out that, while it can be readily distinguished from these forms by other characters, the character of the nasal shields can in many specimens be determined only by examining this scale with a microscope, since the groove is often deep and appears like a suture.



Ruthven, Alexander Grant. 1921. "Description of an apparently new Lizard from Colombia." *Occasional papers of the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan* 103, 1–4.

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