# A NEW GENUS OF GERRHOSAURID FROM SOUTHERN ANGOLA

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(With 2 Text-figures and 1 Plate)

DURING September 1951, two interesting Gerrhosaurids were collected by Dr C. Koch at Port Alexander (between Mossamedes and the mouth of the Kunene River), southern Angola, when taking part in the Peabody-Harvard Expedition, under the leadership of Mr L. K. Marshall. These two specimens (an adult ♂, T.M. no. 22580; and a juvenile, T.M. no. 22581) are without doubt referable to *Gerrhosaurus skoogi* Andersson (also from the same locality) and, together with the latter, differ so markedly from all other forms of *Gerrhosaurus* that the erection of the following new genus to include this form seems warranted.

## **Angolosaurus** n.g.

TYPE SPECIES. *Gerrhosaurus skoogi* Andersson, 1916, *Medd. Göteborgs Mus. Zool.*, Afd. IX, p. 10, fig. 2 (Port Alexander).

Closely related to *Gerrhosaurus*, but readily distinguished by the strongly depressed snout, the sharply angular labial margin and the well-marked lateral serration of the digits. In addition, characterized by the cylindrical body and tail, the distinct differentiation of the scales below lateral fold into laterals and ventrals, the relatively short tail and the proportionately long limbs. The genus clearly exhibits many characters in adaptation to an arid, sandy environment.

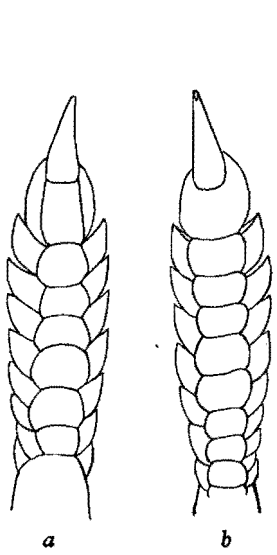
In amplification of the original description of *skoogi* (based on the single known type specimen), a detailed description of the two abovementioned topotypes now follows:

## **Angolosaurus skoogi** (Andersson)

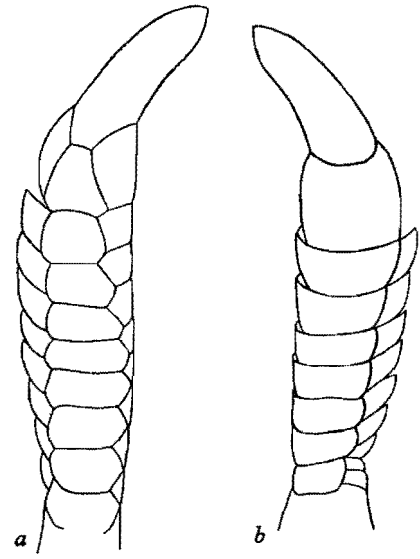
Head (measured from tip of snout to behind ear-opening) barely 5 times into length of head and body, depressed, sloping rapidly from the occiput forwards and, in profile, wedge-shaped as in *Scaptira ctenodactyla*. Snout strongly depressed, rostral and labials with a sharply angular or cutting edge; canthus rostralis well defined. Body stout and practically cylindrical. Rostral large, about 1½ times as broad as long, in broad contact behind with frontonasal and widely separating the rather small nasals. Frontonasal large, subpentagonal, about 1⅓ times as broad as long. In adult, prefrontals in moderate median contact, in juvenile narrowly separated by a short suture of frontonasal with frontal. Latter subhexagonal, about 1⅘ times (twice in juvenile) as long as broad, a little broader in front than behind. A pair of frontoparietals and parietals, latter much larger than former. A small pentagonal interparietal, separating parietals behind. Four supraoculars, 3rd in contact with parietal, last very small. Temporals $\frac{1}{1}$, lower much the larger and in short contact with 4th upper labial (in juvenile temporals $\frac{1}{2}$). Nostril pierced between two small nasals and 1st upper labial; upper nasal larger than lower. A postnasal and a loreal, former quad-

rangular, longer than deep and much smaller than loreal. Tympanic shield large, subcircular, slightly longer than deep, completely covering upper two-thirds to three-quarters of ear-opening. Five upper labials, 4th largest, quadrangular and lying below eye; 5th triangular. A row of small, but distinct, suboculars (5/6 in adult and 4 in juvenile), 1st largest and in contact with loreal, last (postocular?) in contact with upper temporal, parietal and 4th supraciliary and supraocular. Mental pentagonal, small, about half width of rostral. Three well-defined, angularly edged, lower labials, 3rd much the longest, 4th and 5th small and scale-like. Two pairs of chin shields, anterior pair smaller but slightly longer than posterior.

Dorsal scales smooth or faintly carinated posteriorly (distinctly carinated in juvenile), in 62 (adult) to 64 (juvenile) more or less regular transverse and 35




Text-fig. 1.




Text-fig. 2.

Text-fig. 1. *Angolosaurus skoogi* (Andersson). T.M. no. 22580. Upper (*a*) and underside (*b*) of 2nd finger showing lateral serration.

Text-fig. 2. *Angolosaurus skoogi* (Andersson). T.M. no. 22580. Upper (*a*) and underside (*b*) of 2nd toe showing lateral serration.

(32 in juvenile) longitudinal series. Scales on sides, between lateral fold and true ventrals, clearly demarcated from latter by a ridge; these laterals are smooth, quadrangular, in 6 longitudinal rows anteriorly (behind armpit), reducing towards mid-body to 5 and then to 4 over posterior half to third of body. Ventrals large, smooth, imbricate, quadrangular, broader than long, in 10 regular longitudinal rows anteriorly, reducing to 8 at mid-body and 6 posteriorly; in 36 (38 in juvenile) transverse rows from axil to groin. Three enlarged pre-anal plates, the median largest, subtriangular and separating other two. Tail cylindrical, slightly longer than head and body, tapering to a very fine point; scales above and on the sides more or less (in adult) to strongly (in juvenile) keeled, more distinctly so distally and on the sides where they are inclined to be mucronate.

Limbs well developed and proportionately longer than in *Gerrhosaurus*. Fingers depressed, broadly serrated on either side, with slender curved claws. Toes moderately long, slender, depressed (but to a lesser degree than the fingers), distinctly serrated on outer sides only; claws well-developed. Subdigital scales

on fingers keeled, on toes faintly striated, 17–18 under 4th toe; scales on soles of feet very small (almost granular on hind-feet), strongly keeled and imbricate. Femoral pores 24/25 (in juvenile there are 21 pore-bearing scales on either side).

DIMENSIONS.

| | Adult ♂ (T.M. no. 22580) (mm.) | Juvenile (T.M. no. 22581) (mm.) |
|---|---|---|
| Head and body | 137 | 72 |
| Tail | 140 | 86·5 |
| Forelimb | 43 | 22·5 |
| Hindlimb | 68 | 37·5 |
| Head length | 27·5 | 15·5 |
| Head breadth | 19 | 10 |

(*Note.* Head length measured to back of ear-opening; length to hind-margin of parietals 24 and 14 mm. respectively.)

COLOUR. Adult, ivory to greyish or dirty white above, with a brushing of black anteriorly and dusky cloudings on head; rostral, nasals, postnasal and two anterior upper labials black; chin, throat, chest and underside forelimbs also black, paling over belly and underside hindlimbs to blackish brown; soles of feet, however, whitish; sides of body greyish white; tail greyish to brownish white above, white below. Juvenile, pale olive to brownish grey above, with vertically elongate whitish markings on sides; below uniformly white; tail paler than back, with indistinct suffusions of grey at base of lateral scales.

REMARKS. Both specimens were taken on dunes of loose, greyish yellow shifting sand, the adult on the crest of a large dune and the juvenile in the detritus near the base of another. According to Dr Koch, who actually secured the two specimens in question, these lizards appeared to be quite at home on the sand dunes, over which they were observed to move with comparative ease and rapidity. When cornered they disappeared quickly into the soft sand by a scooping action of the snout combined with vigorous digging by the limbs.

As Loveridge (June 1942, *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Harv.* LXXXIX, no. 11, 490, 494) had not seen the type of *skoogi*, he suggested that such characters as the 'sharp cutting jaws and coloration' described by Andersson might be due to preservation, and thus placed this form as a subspecies of *Gerrhosaurus validus*. With the accession, however, of these two further specimens, which confirm the characters originally described by Andersson, it is obvious that *skoogi* is in no way related to the rock-living *validus*.