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Psammobates tentorius tentorius
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SCINCIDAE

Scelotes sexlineatus

(Harlan, 1824)

Striped Dwarf Burrowing Skink

A. M. BAUER

The scincid genus *Scelotes* Fitzinger, 1826 is a monophyletic group (Whiting et al. 2003; Bauer et al. 2003) comprising 21 species of attenuate surface or sub-surface active lizards endemic to sub-Saharan Africa. Diversity is greatest in South Africa, with 18 species, mostly in the northeast, with only one species, *S. capensis* A. Smith, 1849, recorded from Namibia. In verifying the identity of Namibian squamates in the collection of the South African Museum (SAM) (Iziko Museums), a specimen catalogued as SAM ZR-015918 from Aus (2616CA, no explicit coordinates recorded), Karas Region, Namibia and listed in the SAM database as “*Scelotes bipes*” was examined. The specimen proved to be a representative of the very similar *S. sexlineatus*, otherwise known from many localities in the Western and Northern Cape Provinces of South Africa. The specimen has no external pectoral appendages and the hindlimbs bear two toes each. Among West Coast *Scelotes*, presumably the only ones that could conceivably enter southern Namibia, this condition is shared only by *S. bipes*, *S.*

kassneri, *S. montispectus* and *S. sexlineatus*. Of these, only *S. bipes*, endemic to the southwestern Cape, and *S. sexlineatus* have 18 scales rows at midbody (versus 22). The specimen is in poor condition, with the body soft, tail broken and colour pattern greatly faded, however, the hindlimbs, though bearing relatively short digits, are themselves proportionally elongate, as is typical for *S. sexlineatus*.

The specimen was collected by Johan Balthazar Knobel (1853–1931), but is without a date of collection. It is part of a series of specimens (SAM ZR-15914–19) from Aus, all of which are typical for the area (*Chondrodactylus bibronii*, *Karusasaurus polyzonus*, *Trachylepis sulcata*, *Ptenopus garrulus*, and *Scelotes capensis*). Knobel also collected the types of *Agama knobeli* from Aus (Boulenger and Power 1921) and it is possible that this series of specimens was collected at the same time. Knobel, who served in the Native Military Hospital on Shark Island, Lüderitzbucht (Namhila 2015), was acknowledged as a collector of vertebrates for the South African Museum in both 1909 and 1920 (Péringuey 1910, 1921), although he may have participated in one or more South African Museum expeditions to Namibia in the mid-1920s as well.

Lawrence (1929) listed *Scelotes bipes* for the fauna of South West Africa, presumably on the basis of this specimen, at a time

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTIONS

when *S. sexlineatus* was considered a junior synonym of *S. bipes*, based on the work of Boulenger (1910). Lawrence's record was not subsequently cited by FitzSimons (1943) who accorded subspecific status to *sexlineatus*, or Mertens (1955, 1971), neither of whom included the species in the Namibian fauna. Griffin (2003) did not even consider *S. sexlineatus* among the species likely to be found in the country, despite northerly published records from Port Nolloth (FitzSimons 1943; Branch 1998) and the Holgat River (TM 22285; 2816DD). However, more recently, the species has been mapped in quarter degree square 2816DA (Marais and Bauer 2014) based on three vouchered specimens from near Grootderm, east of Alexander Bay, immediately adjacent to the border (28°31'48" S, 16°36'36" E). The new record from Aus represents a northward extension of the species of 210 km from this locality. Southern Namibia remains incompletely explored herpetologically and numerous reptile taxa known from the Northern Cape, and especially Little Namaqualand, may be expected to occur across the Orange River, as has recently been demonstrated in the case of *Pachydactylus barnardi* (Bauer et al. 2016).

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GEKKONIDAE

Pachydactylus purcelli

Boulenger, 1910

Purcell's Gecko

G.K. NICOLAU & K.M.J. LYNCH

On the 31st March 2018 the authors, accompanied by Alouise Lynch, searched a rocky outcrop next to a non-perennial tributary of the Geelbeksrivier. The outcrop is located 16 km south-east of Nuwerus, Western Cape Province (31°13'25.45"S 18°31'29.63"E, 3118BA), in the Succulent Karoo. A sardine tin jammed in a crack between two boulders was removed revealing an adult Purcell's Gecko (*Pachydactylus purcelli*) nestled in one of the corners of the rusted tin. The specimen was photographed and released, the image was subsequently uploaded to the Animal Demography Unit (ADU) Virtual Museum (<http://vmus.adu.org.za>) and can be found under Reptile Map No. 159460. Identification was based on the individual having a very flat and blunt head. The position of its nostril separates the individual from the *P. weberi* group (Bauer 2006), while the head and body was covered in granular scales, the largest being located on the snout, which was slightly longer than orbit. The individual lacked enlarged tubercles on the dorsal region of the body, had an oval ear-opening and 9 upper and lower labials. The