

TURTLES AND LIZARDS FROM NORTHERN MEXICO

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A collection of about 2200 amphibians and reptiles was amassed during the summer of 1958 by two of us (Chrapliwy and Williams) primarily in the dunes areas of southeastern Chihuahua, southwestern Coahuila and northeastern Durango, Mexico. A few other specimens were taken in Zacatecas, northern Jalisco, Aguascalientes, and Texas; among these is a single *Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus* Linnaeus from Laredo, Texas, a gecko previously reported by Dixon (1957).

The material from Aguascalientes has been reserved for report elsewhere in conjunction with a review of the entire herpetofauna of that state. A new *Uma* has already been reported (Williams, Chrapliwy and Smith, 1959), and certain *Cnemidophorus* have been withheld for further study. All other noteworthy lizards and turtles are reported herewith.

We are indebted to the Research Board of the Graduate School of the University of Illinois for financing the field work; to Dr. D. F. Hoffmeister, curator of the University of Illinois Museum of Natural History, for the use of certain field equipment; to Mr. Luis de la Torre for construction of an official letter of introduction; to Dr. John M. Legler for the use of a turtle trap; and to Dr. Robert Inger for loan of com-

parative material in the Chicago Natural History Museum.

All specimens unless otherwise indicated are in the University of Illinois Museum of Natural History (UIMNH). All color notes pertain to preserved material unless otherwise noted. Localities may be found on the National Geographic Map of Mexico, or on the World Aeronautical Charts.

Amyda ferox emoryi (Agassiz). Two, 1 mi. E. of La Cruz (Río Florida), Chihuahua, representing an addition to the recorded herpetofauna of that state. Abundant where taken and also, by report of local residents, in Lago Toronto into which the Río Florida drains by way of the Río Conchos. As this drainage system originates in northern Durango at two different points (Río Florida and Río de Balleza), it seems likely that this subspecies occurs there also. Seventeen specimens of *Kinosternon hirtipes* Wagler were also taken at this locality.

Pseudemys scripta gaigeae Hartweg. Two, 1 mi. E. of La Cruz (Río Florida), Chihuahua. Reported only once previously from this state (Chrapliwy and Fugler, 1955, p. 122).

Pseudemys scripta gaigeae Hartweg x *elegans* (Wied). Six, 5.7 mi. W. of Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila, from a spring fed pond. The series resembles *gaigeae* since three have

distinctly isolated, rounded temporal spots and one has an elongate but still isolated spot; two have typical *elegans*-like temporal markings. Two have a nearly black plastron; the other four show in varying degrees a tendency toward a melanistic plastron, with the basic outline tending to resemble a typical *gaigeae* pattern. The carapaces were thickly covered with moss, but when cleaned the ground color was olive green, with 1-5 irregularly scattered black blotches per lamina. The middorsal keel on carapace seems higher than in typical *gaigeae*. The hind marginals are flared but lack a notch in the center.

Terrapene coahuila Schmidt and Bogert. A live male, 5.7 mi. W. of Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila, taken in early morning from a completely submerged trap baited with several small fish the evening before. This species has never before been examined for cloacal bursae. To our surprise in this specimen the bursae are well developed, with a large opening on either side, some 3 mm. in diameter, entering a slender sac about 10 mm. in length. This is a far better development than in other *Terrapene*, suggesting that *T. coahuila* is more primitive in this respect than *T. carolina* or *T. ornata* (which completely or virtually lack the bursae), and that its actual generic status is open to question. In like manner the generic status of *T. nelsoni* and *T. klauberi* will bear review in light of the structure of the cloacal bursae in these species.

Coleonyx brevis Stejneger. The range of this species as plotted by Klauber (1945, p. 214) shows a large gap in distribution through the

western two-thirds of Coahuila and in northeastern Durango. A record from 2 mi. N., 6 mi. E. of Camargo, Chihuahua (Chrapliwy and Fugler, 1955, p. 123), has shown that this area should undoubtedly be included in the range. Substantiation is provided by 11 specimens from 15.8 mi. E. of Matamoros, 14.1 mi. E. of Paila, and 6.7 mi. E. of San Pedro, Coahuila; 1.2-22.2 mi. S. of Tlahualilo and 5.1 mi. N.W. of Bermejillo, Durango. All were collected at night along the road, except for one found at night within an area of sand dunes.

Holbrookia maculata bunkeri Smith. Seven, Samalayuca dunes region, Chihuahua. The series contains two juvenile males with dorsal surface of body gray; dorsal surface of limbs and tail a distinctive shade lighter; two ventrolateral slashes slanting posteroventrally; dorsal light spots not nearly so prevalent as in adult males; total length (all measurements in mm.) 62, 54; tail 31, 27; hindleg (from groin to tip of 4th toe) 24, 21; supralabials 6/6, 6/6; infralabials 9/9, 9/9; head relatively large as compared with adults.

Holbrookia maculata dickersonae Schmidt. Two, 4.8 mi. and 5.7 mi. W. of Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila, represent northern range extensions. One, 10.4 mi. S.E. of Zavalza, Chihuahua, in Durango, represents a western range extension in the northern extremity of the range.

Crotaphytus collaris baileyi Stejneger. A juvenile, 11 mi. N. of Zapata (jct. highways 106-60), Coahuila, represents the southernmost record in this state.

Ventral surface immaculately white except for faint traces of gray in gular region; dorsal surface of head brown; brown spots on white in lateral region; black blotches forming transverse lines on entire body and tail posterior to region just in front of shoulder, interspaced by pink blotches formed in nearly the same manner; pink blotches narrower and becoming white posteriorly, fading out completely on tail; legs gray, brown, and white, with no definite pattern on hindlegs, but tendency to form bars on forelegs. Total length 110 mm., snout-vent 37 mm.

Gambelia wislizeni wislizeni (Baird and Girard). Nine, all from areas of sand dunes, represent southward range extensions: 0.7 mi. E. of Carrillo, Chihuahua; 13.5 mi. S. of Tlahualilo and 5.8 mi. N.N.E. of Bermejillo, Durango (state record); 7 mi. E. of Matamoros and 6 mi. S.E. of San Pedro, Coahuila. Others were taken 6.8 mi. S. of Samalayuca (dunes), and 8 and 9 mi. N. of Villa Ahumada, Chihuahua.

Phrynosoma modestum Girard. One, 30 mi. S.E. of Sombrerete, Zacatacas, represents a westward range extension in the state and also a westernmost record in the southern extremity of the range.

Sceloporus grammicus disparilis Stejneger. Three, 8.1 mi. N.E. of El Salto, Durango, beneath bark of dead logs, inactive due to cool, wet weather.

Sceloporus magister bimaculosus Phelan and Brattstrom. Three, 9 mi. N. of Villa Ahumada and 0.7 mi. E. of Carrillo, Chihuahua; and 3.6 mi. W. of Matamoros, Coahuila.

Sceloporus maculosus Smith. Four, the only ones recorded from a locality distant from the type locality near Pedriceña, Durango, are from 11 mi. N. of Zapata (jct. highways 106-60), Coahuila (state record). They agree in all details with topotypes, having no postrostrals, a post-femoral dermal pocket, no enlarged postanals in males; dorsals 49, 52 (2), 54; femoral pore series in contact medially or separated by 1 or 2 scales; femoral pores 18/19, 21/19, 21/20, 19/19.

Sceloporus merriami australis
subsp. nov.

Holotype. Univ. Ill. Mus. Nat. Hist. 43319, 15.6 mi. E. of Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila, July 9, 1958, P. S. Chapliwy and K. L. Williams. *Paratypes*. Thirty-two, including 10 topotypes (UIMNH 43311-8, 43320-1); UIMNH 43307-10, 23.8 mi. S.E. of Hacienda Guadalupe, Coah.; UIMNH 46945-55, 5.7 mi. W. of Cuatro Ciénegas, Coah.; UIMNH 46956-7, 29 mi. W. of Cuatro Ciénegas, Coah.; Chicago Nat. Hist. Mus. (CNHM) 47149-80, Cuatro Ciénegas, Coah. *Hypoparatypes*. Five: CNHM 1544(3), Jaral, Coahuila, Heller and Barbour, 1904; CNHM 44318, 30 mi. S.W. of San Pedro, Coah., at pass from San Pedro Plain to Las Delicias road, K. P. Schmidt *et al.*, Aug. 20, 1946; and CNHM 46113, spring at Las Delicias, C. M. Bogert, Aug. 19, 1946. These specimens are considered hypoparatypes because the locality data are open to question (Jaral), or the locality represented is so far from others for the subspecies that with larger series a still different geographic race may be discernible.

Range. The only localities known for subsp. *australis* are in central Coahuila near Cuatro Ciénegas, and in southwestern Coahuila near San Pedro. *S. m. merriami* is known from no nearer than northern Coahuila in the Carmen Mts., and *S. m. annulatus* is restricted to the Big Bend of Texas.

Diagnosis. A member of the species *Sceloporus merriami*, differing from the other races in having usually (91% in

68) smooth head scales (like *merriami*), tail bands evident ventrally (like *annulatus*), anterior half of frontal usually (81% in 67) entire (24% in 147 *annulatus*, 96% in 73 *merriami*), labio-mentals usually (90% in 132) separated from 1st labial (5% in *merriami*, 93% in 99 *annulatus*); dorsal scales from occiput to base of tail usually (74% in 65) 50 or fewer (21% in 114 *annulatus*, 0% in 55 *merriami*); gular bars usually separate posteriorly and usually poorly defined anteriorly (usually fused posteriorly in *merriami*, well defined anteriorly in *annulatus*).

Description of holotype. Male, snout-vent 44 mm., tail 60 mm.; anterior half of frontal entire; frontoparietals 1-1, separated by contact of frontal and interparietal; median frontonasal in contact with frontal; head scales smooth except for marginal pits; labio-mentals separated from 1st infralabial on each side, but contacting anterior chinshield on one side; 49 dorsals from occiput to base of tail; femoral pores 26-27, the two series separated medially by 1 scale; lateral belly marks not extending onto hind legs or chest, separated medially by at least 3 scales; blue gular marks weakly evident anteriorly and laterally well-defined but separate posteromedially; dark rings on tail clearly evident ventrally.

The three subspecies of *S. merriami* are contrasted in the diagnosis of *australis*. Clearly the closest relative of *australis* is *annulatus*, differing primarily in smoothness of head scales, size of dorsals and division of anterior section of frontal.

Sceloporus ornatus caeruleus Smith. Three, 11 mi. N., 27.7 mi. E. of Zapata; six, 11 mi. N. of Zapata; and three, 23.8 mi. S.E. of Hda. Guadalupe, all in Coahuila, add several localities to a subspecies previously known only from the type locality (5 mi. S. of San Pedro, Coahuila); 26 mi. S.W. of San Pedro (Chrapliwy and Fugler, 1955); and 4 mi. N., 21 mi. W. of Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila (Chrapliwy, 1956, p. 123).

Sceloporus torquatus melanogaster Cope. One, 30.1 mi. S.E. of Sombrerete, Zacatecas, is from near the western edge of the known range for this subspecies.

Uta stansburiana stejnegeri Schmidt. Seven, 3 mi. S.W. of Hipólito, Coahuila, from near eastward edge of range in Mexico.

Scincella laterale (Say). Nine, 5.7 mi. W. of Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila, represent a new locality for a lizard of which there are few records from Mexico. Found in late afternoon in short grass surrounding a pond.

Cnemidophorus sacki exsanguis Lowe. Two (44660-1) from near Ricardo Flores Magón, Chihuahua, fit Lowe's (1956, p. 138) diagnosis in the following characters: snout-vent less than 100 (81 mm., 72 mm.); six distinct light longitudinal stripes; circumorbital scales not extending forward of frontoparietal midpoints; occiput-rump scale counts 177 and 159; around body scale counts (excluding ventrals, and counted at a point approximately midway between fore and hindlegs) 66 and 67.

However, one of the specimens does not possess light colored spots in the dark fields between stripes; also a series of this subspecies collected in southeastern Arizona in the summer of 1957 shows a range from complete absence of spots to typical specimens as described by Lowe. No sexual correlation was found in presence or absence of spots. Further studies on this group of *Cnemidophorus* are in progress.

Cnemidophorus tessellatus (Say). Three (43746-48, pls. 1, 2), 1 mi. E. of La Cruz, Chihuahua, represent the first record of this whiptail from Mexico, although there has been lit-

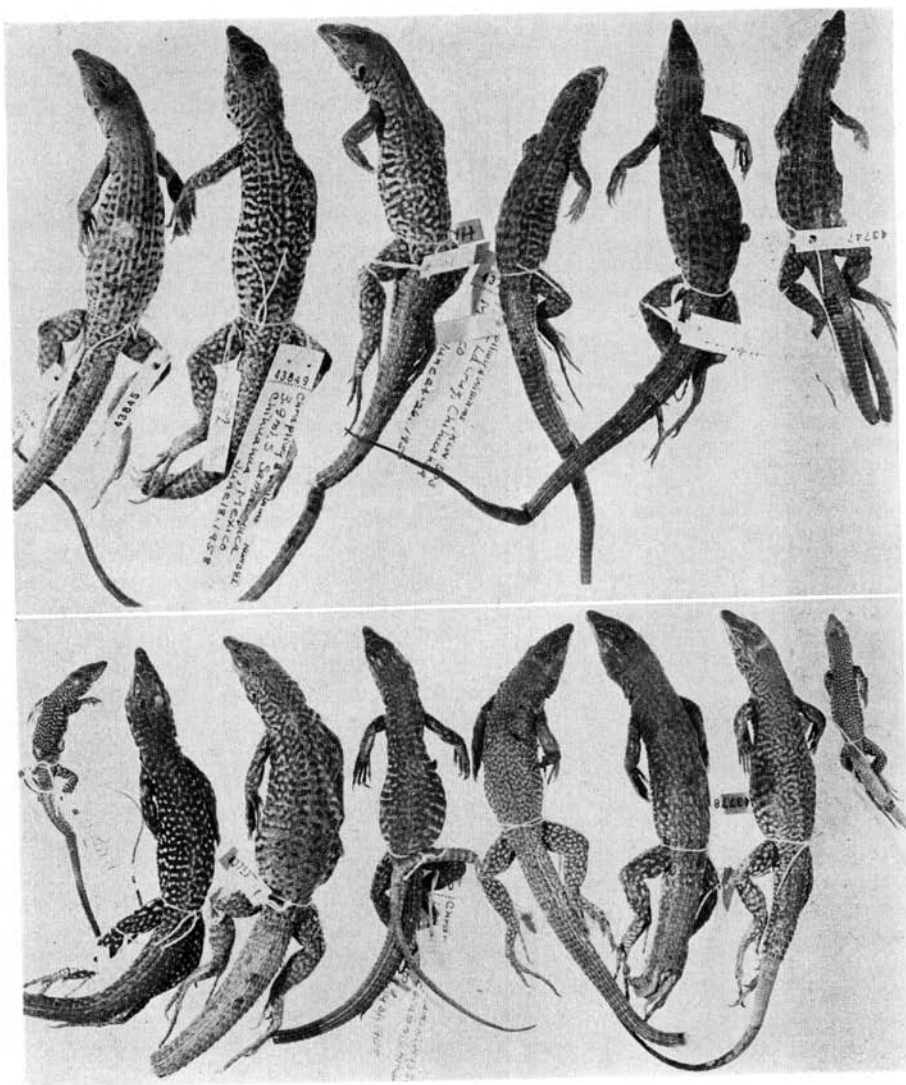


Fig. 1.—Dorsal views of *Cnemidophorus*. Top left three, *C. tigris marmoratus*; top right three, *C. tessellatus*; bottom left four, *C. tigris pulcher*; bottom right four, *C. tigris variolosus*.

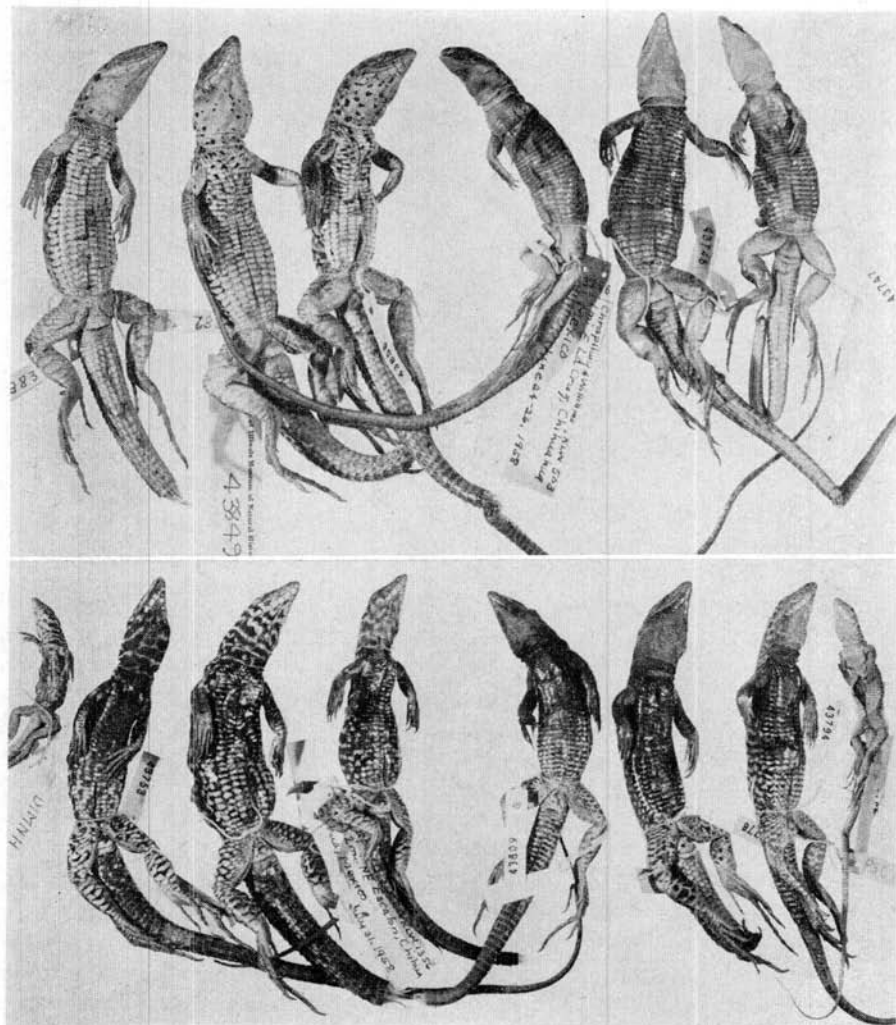


Fig. 2.—Ventral views of *Cnemidophorus*. Top left three, *C. tigris marmoratus*; top right three, *C. tessellatus*; bottom left four, *C. tigris pulcher*; bottom right four, *C. tigris variolosus*.

tle doubt that it occurred there. The range extension is, however, unexpectedly large: La Cruz is approximately 275 miles south of El Paso, Texas, the nearest U. S. locality of record.

The identity of these specimens was established on the following data: no spots on ventral surface; dorsal pattern quite distinct, in contrast to a mottled or broken pattern in *Cnemidophorus tigris marmoratus*; scales anterior to gular fold enlarged; postantibranchials not enlarged. Snout-vent (in mm.) 74, 76, and 87.

These lizards were collected along the Río Florida in a vegetation consisting of willows, cottonwoods and fairly heavy undergrowth.

Cnemidophorus tigris marmoratus Baird and Girard. Forty-seven (43842-88, pls. 1-2) from the following localities in Chihuahua: 3.9 mi. S., 9.5 mi. S., 6.8 mi. S. of Samalayuca; 9 mi. N., and 8 mi. N. of Villa Ahumada; 4.8 mi. N. of Moctezuma; 4.6 mi. N. of La Cruz; and 1 mi. E. of La Cruz. Throat and chest with small black spots scattered on a white background; belly, ventral side of hind legs and tail white; dorsal pattern forming lines or broken lines in the dorsolateral areas; most of dorsal area fairly light in color, but with some dark background; white bars in lateral areas of some specimens; frenocular generally present; circumorbital scales usually to anterior half of frontal.

Zweifel (1959) adequately discussed the range of this lizard. The La Cruz locality is a slight southward range extension for the state of Chihuahua.

Cnemidophorus tigris variolosus Cope. The name *variolosus* was revived by Zweifel (1959) for a very distinct group of *tigris* from southern Coahuila, northeastern Durango and very probably extreme southeastern Chihuahua (cf. Zweifel, p. 98, map).

The localities for the seventy-nine specimens (43763-841) present in our series are so near Zweifel's records we do not here cite them. To his account we can add a description of the juvenile stage: dorsal ground color dark with tiny reticulating white lines, except for light bluish-gray on tail; head uniform bluish-gray; basal surface of tail and throat white; faint traces of dark lines on extreme lateral edges of throat; belly and chest very light blue; circumorbital scales to posterior edge of frontal; frenocular present; femoral pores 22/23, separated by 3 scale rows; supraocular scales 4/4; supralabials 5/5; infralabials 6/6; snout-vent length 46 mm.; tail 118 mm.

The above lizards were collected in areas of sand dunes and also typical desert of the area (creosote bush and mesquite being the major forms of vegetation). *Uma exsul* was the chief lizard in association in the dune areas; others were *Coleonyx brevis*, *Uta stansburiana stejnegeri* and *Gambelia wislizeni wislizeni*. These, excluding *Uma* and *Gambelia*, were also the conspicuous lizards found in association in the "typical desert" areas. The locality 11 mi. N. of Zapata is a small canyon enclosed on three sides, with numerous mesquite shrubs; here *Holbrookia texana scitula* was found in associa-

tion with *C. t. variolosus* while *Sceloporus maculosus* and *Crotaphytus collaris baileyi* were found on adjacent slopes.

The major activity of this lizard seems to come in the morning hours until approximately 11:00 a.m.; however, examples were collected during all periods of the day except in early evening before sunset. In areas where *Uma exsul* were collected until dark, *C. t. variolosus* had disappeared nearly one and one-half to two hours earlier. They seem to be less wary when active than the two adjacent western and northern subspecies (*pulcher* subsp. nov. and *marmoratus*).

Cnemidophorus tigris pulcher
subsp. nov.

Holotype. Adult male, UIMNH 43762, Pete S. Chrapliwy and Kenneth L. Williams, 1.2 mi. N.W. of Carrillo, Chihuahua, Mexico, Aug. 1, 1958. **Paratypes.** Thirteen, all from Chihuahua; two (43749-43761) topotypes; five from 0.7 mi. E. of Carrillo; one, 19.2 mi. N.E. of Escalón; four, 17.9 mi. N.E. of Escalón; one, 14.2 mi. N.E. of Escalón. Paratypes collected on same date by same personnel.

Diagnosis. Throat and chest black, but with black being broken up by diagonal white or bluish-white lines in gular region (Fig. 2); dorsal surface lacking stripes and often with excessive black pigment on anterior half or entire dorsal body region; black, light-brown and white dorsal reticulations relatively larger than in subsp. *variolosus*; frenocular generally lacking or if present not touching subocular; circumorbital scales extending to anterior half of frontal; scales around body (excluding enlarged ventrals) 86-97, mean 89.9; juvenile with distinct black and white gular markings (Fig. 2).

Description of holotype. Adult male, snout-vent 91 mm., tail 225 mm.; extended right hind leg measured from groin to base of nail on 4th toe 67 mm.; femoral pores 23/22, series separated by

3 scales; no frenocular; supralabials 5/5; infralabials 6/6; supraoculars 4/4; circumorbital granules to anterior half of frontal; a single interparietal bordered posteriorly by 2 enlarged scale rows; 8 longitudinal rows of ventrals; 93 scales around body (excluding ventrals), 188 from occiput to base of tail; three enlarged preanals; scales on dorsal and lateral surfaces of tail heavily keeled, with lateral ones slanting slightly posteroventrally.

Coloration (dorsal region): top of head brown with black blotches; dorsal and lateral regions of body with a series of light brown and black irregular narrow bars or blotches, the bars mainly in the lateral regions and the blotches in the middorsal region; anterior quarter of tail heavily flecked with black on a light ground color, posterior three-quarters a yellowish-brown; forelegs nearly black with a few small light brown spots; hind legs with numerous light spots on a dark ground color.

Ventral region: gular region black with white or bluish white mottling, the black occupying most of the area; chest and forelegs covered by scales black on anterior edge and white or bluish-white on posterior three-quarters; belly and hind legs white with many scattered black markings; belly with faint pinkish cast (in life); anterior fourth of tail white with black markings, next fourth uniform grayish-white, and posterior half uniform dark brown.

Variation. Very little variation occurs in supralabials, infralabials and supraoculars; enlarged scale rows posterior to interparietals 2-3, with only three specimens having 3 rows; scales between femoral pore rows 2-3 (10/14 having 2); femoral pores (both sides) 41-50, mean 44.4; scales around body (excluding enlarged ventrals) 86-97, mean 89.9; scales occiput-rump 178-197, mean 185.7; frenocular scale completely lacking in nine specimens, reduced or complete only on one side in remaining five; maximum total length 385 mm., minimum 166 mm. (juvenile); max. snout-vent 99 mm., min. 42 mm. (juvenile).

Top of head usually dark brown with traces of black; lateral and dorsal areas of anterior half of body heavily impregnated with black (7 specimens), but with pattern still present, or, in several specimens, this condition extending to and including hind legs (see Figs. 1 and 2 for depiction of variation in pattern);

tail uniform yellowish-brown in most, a few specimens having black marks scattered throughout the brown.

Gular color nearly complete black in one specimen to various degrees of mottling of black and white or bluish-white in others, the black in all cases occupying most of the area; chest as described for type to a complete black (in one specimen); belly from a nearly uniform grayish-white to a black interspersed condition; several specimens with a pinkish cast in belly region; tail as described for type to a complete uniform dark brown.

A single juvenile showed the following characters: entire dorsal surface dark (nearly black), interspersed with small, irregular lines; head and tail without white lines but dark in color; gular region with black mottling; chest and belly flecked with black; femoral region of hind legs speckled with dark pigment; tibial region white; ventral surface of tail fairly dark in color, except light anterior sixth, snout-vent length 41 mm.; tail 128 mm.; right hind leg 35 mm.; supralabials 6/6; infralabials 7/7; supraoculars 4/4; circumorbitals to anterior half of frontal; femoral pores 41; scales separating femoral pore rows 3.

Habits and Habitat. These lizards were found to be active during the morning hours (7:00 to 11:00 a.m.), but not enough time was spent in the area to note the afternoon or early evening activity. It seems to be a more wary lizard than the eastern subspecies *variolosus*. Lizards of this subspecies were found in low-lying sand dunes and adjacent areas with the sparse vegetation consisting principally of creosote bush and mesquite. Other lizards collected in association were *Uta stansburiana stejnegeri*, *Uma paraphygas* (Williams, Chrapliwy, and Smith, 1959, p. 170), *Gambelia wislizeni wislizeni*, *Sceloporus undulatus consobrinus*, and *S. magister bimaculosus*.

Range. Known only from localities of type and paratypes. We believe that it is very probably restricted to the dunes of this region, which according to the World Aeronautical Chart stretch southward some 30 miles from Carrillo, Chihuahua.

Comparisons. Maximum snout-vent length: *marmoratus* 95 mm.; *pulcher* 99 mm.; *variolosus* 98 mm. Maximum tail length: *marmoratus* 235 mm.; *pulcher* 308 mm.; *variolosus* 274 mm. Juvenile measurements (in mm.): *mar-*

moratus, no specimens; *variolosus*, s-v 39, tail 108; *pulcher*, s-v 41, tail 128. Circumorbital granules: *marmoratus*, normally half distance anteriorly on frontal scale; *pulcher*, same as in *marmoratus*; *variolosus*, to posterior edge of frontal or just slightly anterior. Enlarged scales behind parietal: *marmoratus*, in one distinctly enlarged row with 1-2 lesser rows; *pulcher*, usually in 2 more or less uniformly enlarged rows, occasionally 3 rows; *variolosus*, same as in *pulcher*. Femoral pores: *marmoratus* 39-48, mean 42.8; *pulcher* 41-50, mean 44.4; *variolosus* 40-49, mean 44. Scales between femoral pore rows: *marmoratus*, 3-6, mean 4.5; *pulcher*, 2-3, mean 2.3; *variolosus*, 3-5, mean 4.2. Around body scale counts (excluding enlarged ventrals): *marmoratus*, 87-110, mean 100.2 ± 1.1 (Zweifel, 1959, p. 96); *pulcher* 86-97, mean 89.9; *variolosus* 86-109, mean 98.5 ± 1.0 (Zweifel).

Dorsal coloration: *marmoratus*, tail and head yellowish-brown, remaining dorsal surface with black and white reticulations tending to form a broken-line pattern in some specimens; *pulcher*, reticulating black and white markings not forming a broken line pattern, and with a brownish cast to white areas; heavy impregnation of black in anterior half of dorsal surface, however not obliterating pattern; posterior dorsal area with a darker ground color than in either of the other two subspecies; *variolosus*, yellowish-brown ground color, with black and white reticulating lines relatively smaller than in *pulcher*.

Gular region: *marmoratus*, white with scattered small black specks, occasionally uniform white, *pulcher*, white reticulating markings running through a black ground color; *variolosus*, black or slaty. Chest coloration: *marmoratus*, white with scattered small black specks; *pulcher*, black; *variolosus*, black. Belly coloration: *marmoratus*, normally white; *pulcher*, heavily flecked with black, *variolosus*, normally heavily flecked with black, may be solid black in anterior region. Coloration ventral side of forelegs: *marmoratus*, white, or slightly flecked with black; *pulcher*, black; *variolosus*, black. Hind legs (ventral surface): *marmoratus*, normally white; *pulcher*, heavily marked with black; *variolosus*, heavily marked with black. Tail (ventral surface): *marmoratus*, white with black or bluish markings on posterior half; *pulcher*, except for light colored anterior one-

sixth, nearly black; *variolosus*, heavily marked with black.

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