

1. PHILOCHORTUS SPINALIS.

Lacerta spinalis, Peters, Mon. Berl. Ac. 1874, p. 369, pl. —, fig. 2.

Latastia spinalis, Bouleng. Cat. Liz. iii, p. 57 (1887); Stejneger, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xvi, 1894, p. 717; Bouleng. Ann. Mus. Genova (2) xvi, 1896, p. 551; Tornier, Zool. Jahrb., Syst. xxii, 1905, p. 375; O. Neumann, t.c., p. 395.

Philochortus spinalis, Bouleng. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1917, p. 146, pl. i, figs. 1, 2.

Head and body feebly depressed. Head $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{5}$ times as long as broad, its depth equal to the distance between the anterior corner of the eye and the tympanum, its length 4 to $4\frac{1}{3}$ times in length to vent; snout obtusely pointed, as long as postocular part of head, with obtuse canthus. Pileus twice as long as broad. Neck as broad as the head or a little narrower. Hind limb reaching the shoulder or between the shoulder and the ear in males, the axil or the shoulder in females; foot $1\frac{1}{3}$ to $1\frac{2}{5}$ times as long as hand; toes slender, feebly compressed. Tail 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as head and body.

Nostril pierced between 3 shields; nasals forming a suture behind the rostral, the suture $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the frontonasal, which is much broader than long and broader than the internarial space; prefrontals forming a short median suture; frontal as long as its distance from the end of the snout. $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{2}{3}$ times as long as broad, angular in front, much narrower behind, not or but very feebly grooved in front; parietals $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as broad, usually meeting on the median line, the interparietal being small and separated from the occipital, or often altogether absent*; occipital small,† rarely in contact with the interparietal.‡ Two large subequal supraoculars, preceded and followed by a small one (first and fourth) often broken up into two or more small shields or granules, the first in contact with the frontal; 6 or 7 superciliaries, separated from the supraoculars by a series of granules. Lower eyelid opaque or somewhat translucent, with feebly enlarged scales in the middle, some of which are deeper than the others. Rostral not entering the nostril; a single postnasal; anterior loreal shorter than the second§; 4, rarely 5, upper labials anterior to the subocular, which is usually narrower beneath than

* Absent in the type specimen and in most of the 59 specimens from Ghinda examined by me. I was wrong in thinking the absence of this shield in the type specimen to be an individual anomaly.

† Divided into 2 in the type specimen.

‡ In 2 female specimens from Rugdeia Sogheira in the Genoa Museum.

§ Absent in the type specimen.

above. A long, narrow upper temporal, usually in contact with the fourth supraocular, followed by one or two small shields; upper temporal scales small and granular or hexagonal, lower larger; a more or less distinct tympanic shield.

4 pairs of chin-shields, first two or three in contact in the middle; 21 to 29 gular scales between the symphysis of the chin-shields and the median collar-plate, granular in front, gradually or abruptly enlarged and imbricate behind, those of the last row often as large as the plates of the collar; no gular fold. Collar with strongly serrated edge, composed of 6 to 10 plates.

Scales granular on the nape; 2, 4, or rarely 6 rows of hexagonal plates along the back, usually smooth, sometimes very feebly keeled; these plates rather small and usually merging gradually into the granular, flat, smooth or obtusely keeled scales on the sides; 30 to 46 plates and scales across the middle of the body. Ventral plates in 6 longitudinal and 27 to 32 transverse series, the border of the transverse series notched between the plates, the median pair of which is narrower than the others. Preanal plates small and irregular, or two median enlarged.

11 to 15 femoral pores on each side. 27 to 30 lamellar scales under the fourth toe.

Caudal scales forming alternately longer and shorter whorls, upper oblique, rather strongly and diagonally keeled, rounded or obtusely pointed behind, lower feebly keeled, basals smooth; 21 to 28 scales in the fourth or fifth whorl behind the postanal granules.

Young dark brown or black on the body, with 6 yellowish white longitudinal streaks; the median pair bifurcating on the nape, the outer branch extending to the superciliary edge, and uniting on the base of the tail; the upper lateral streak from the eye to the tail, passing above the tympanum, the lower from the upper lip to the thigh, passing through the tympanum and above the fore limb, reappearing on the back of the thigh; upper surface of head pale brown, with or without distinct mottling; upper surface of fore limb pale brown, the shields dark-edged, of hind limb brown with round white spots; lower parts white; tail coral-red. These markings may entirely disappear in the adult, or the dark spaces between the light streaks may be replaced by longitudinal series of dark brown or black spots on a yellowish brown ground.

Measurements (in millimetres) :

	1.	2.	3.	4.
From end of snout to vent	55	49	58	52
" " " " fore limb	19	17	18	18

	1.	2.	3.	4.
Length of head	12	12	12	12
Width of head	7	7	7	7
Depth of head	6.5	6	6	6
Fore limb	19	17	18	17
Hind limb	34	31	32	31
Foot	17	16	17	16
Tail	—	122	135	123

1. ♂, Rugdeia Sogheira. 2. ♂, Ghinda. 3. ♀, Rugdeia Sogheira.
4. ♀, Ghinda.

Particulars of Specimens Examined.

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
♂ Rugdeia Sogheira, Adal	55	34	29	8	26	13-12	29
♀ " " " " G.M.	58	35	30	6	21	14	27
" " " " "	45	40	30	7	22	13	29
♂ Ghinda	53	34	29	9	21	14-15	30
" "	49	33	27	9	24	12	27
" "	49	37	29	7	22	14-15	28
♀ "	55	37	32	8	29	15	29
" "	52	38	32	7	22	12	28
" "	47	36	32	7	25	13	28

1. Length to vent (in millimetres). 2. Plates and scales across middle of body. 3. Transverse series of ventral plates. 4. Plates in collar. 5. Gular scales in a straight line between symphysis of chin-shields and median collar-plate. 6. Femoral pores (right and left). 7. Lamellar scales under fourth toe. Same explanation for the following tables.

Habitat.—Eritrea. The type specimen is from Bogos.

I have examined the type and one specimen from Adal in the Berlin Museum, 2 from Rugdeia Sogheira, and 59 from Ghinda.