

## A New Lacertid Lizard From Korea

By HARLAN D. WALLEY

In a collection of reptiles and amphibians made by William E. Old, Jr. in Ch'ungch'ong Pukto Province, southern Korea, during 1951, are two specimens of *Takydromus tachydromoides* (Schlegel) that apparently represent a distinct and undescribed subspecies.

I am indebted to Dr. Doris M. Cochran of the United States National Museum for the loan of valuable specimens, and the privilege of describing this new subspecies.

I propose the new subspecies to be known as:

*TAKYDROMUS TACHYDROMOIDES OLDI* new subsp.\*

*Holotype*: U.S.N.M. 129618, adult female, from an abandoned building, Tajon, Korea, Jan. 1951; collected by William E. Old, Jr.

*Paratypes*: Adult female, U.S.N.M. 129616, same locality as type.

*Range*: Known only from type locality.

*Diagnosis*: Agrees with *tachydromoides* in having the same number of ventral rows, femoral pores, and dorsals, but differs in having a distinct collar, of three to four rows of granular scales; keeled ventrals; reduced number of ventral rows; neck slightly narrower than head; and in coloration by having a distinct white collar and uniform chocolate brown ground color.

*Description of holotype*: Adult female; head  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times as long as broad, depth equal to the distance between anterior corner of eye and ear opening; snout pointed, as long as the postocular part of head. Neck slightly narrower than head; hind limb reaching elbow; foot  $1\frac{1}{3}$  times length of head; head rugose; rostral visible from above; anterior nasals separated by rostral which is broadly in contact with frontonasal; frontonasal as long as broad, contacting prefrontals dorsally and nasals and anterior loreal laterally; frontal as long as its distance from end of snout,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times as long as broad, narrower behind, followed by a pair of frontoparietals and the interparietal; frontoparietals contact third and fourth supraoculars, frontal and interparietal and parietals; interparietal  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times as long as broad; pair of parietals as long as broad; occipital greatly reduced, being slightly larger than list supraocular, in contact with interparietal anteriorly; two enlarged upper temporals adjoining posterior head scales; anterior largest, separated from fifth upper labial by seven smaller, strongly keeled temporals; four supraoculars, first very small, not in contact with frontal, second and third large, the second the larger, fourth small but larger than first, (fused with first postocular on right side); second and third supraoculars separated from superciliaries by six granular scales; four superciliaries, first the larger, second almost equaling first; third and fourth equal.

Nostril pierced between three shields; anterior loreal higher than wide, higher than posterior nasal, touching first and second labials; posterior loreal as wide as high, adjoining second and third upper labials anterior to subocular and three posterior; subocular narrower beneath than above; three postoculars.

\*Named in honor of William E. Old, Jr., the collector.

Mental large; six infralabials; four pairs of chin-shields, two anterior meeting at midline; 23 gulars between the symphysis of chinshields and medial collar-plate, anterior granular, smooth; posterior enlarged, imbricate, keeled and merging gradually into the collar.

Dorsal scales strongly keeled, obtusely pointed behind, six longitudinal series, with two median rows reduced; sides with three lower series of keeled scales, and a median granular area; neck scales in light longitudinal series, pointed and strongly keeled, reduced to granules laterally; collar of three distinct longitudinal granular rows, just posterior of the occipital.

Ventral plates arranged in 8 longitudinal and 22 transverse rows from the gular fold to vent; outer four rows obtusely pointed, median four rows rounded and keeled; 32 scales and plates around body; preanal plate large, smooth, single, with two narrow scales on each side.

Scales on forearm pointed and keeled, with slight variation in size; upper leg scales like dorsals, largest slightly smaller. Femoral pores 2 on each femur; subdigital lamellae divided, twenty-three under fourth toe.

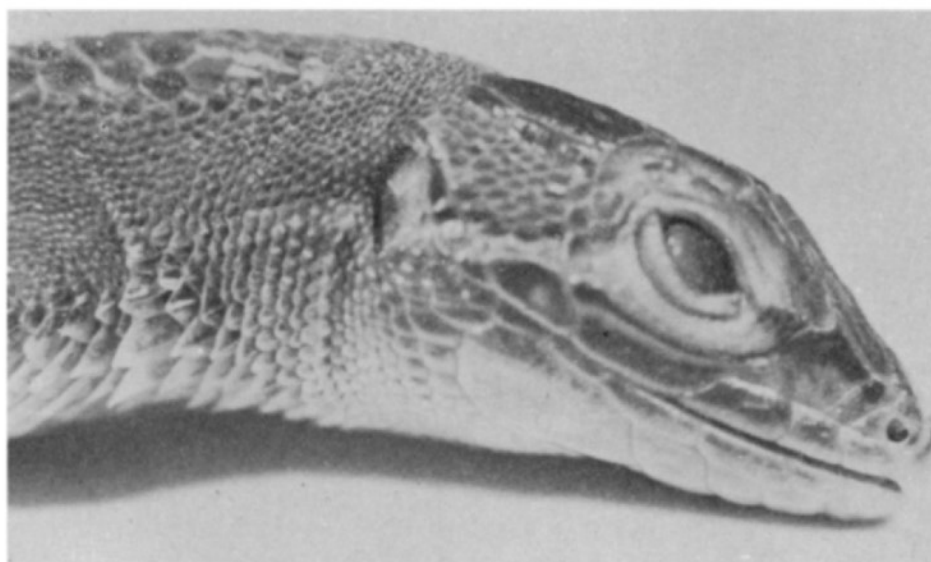


Fig. 1. *Takydromus tachydromoides oldi*, Holotype, USNM No. 129618; Tajon, Korea.

Regenerated tail covered with whorls of strongly keeled, pointed scales.

Ground color chocolate brown; a vertebral stripe of light brown from nape to tail; a blackish streak on canthus; a white streak, two scales wide from posterior corner of eye to shoulder; top of head unmarked; chin and throat bluish gray; ventral plates white anteriorly, bluish posteriorly; white band forming a distinct collar three scales wide just posterior to occipital and extending nearly to tympanic shield; ventral surface of limbs white; regenerated tail brown.

Snout to vent length 51 mm.; tail 58; snout to posterior border of ear 12.3; head width at widest point, 7.5; head depth, 6.5; axilla to groin, 25; length of foreleg 20; and hindleg 27. *Variation*: USNM No. 129616, adult female; upper labials anterior to the subocular 4-3; median two

rows of dorsals greatly reduced; with four lateral rows greatly enlarged; snout to vent length 50 mm. in paratype, compared to 51 in type; white streak from lower eyelid to shoulder, through lower part of ear which is black edged, continuing as a series of white spots to midbody. *Comparisons*: Readily distinguished from *tachydromoides* by the distinct collar of granular scales, keeled ventrals, which are occasionally found in juveniles of *tachydromoides* and a reduced number of transverse ventrals.

The race is different from the somewhat similar *amurensis* Peters in possessing a lower number of dorsal rows; lower femoral pore count; and in having top of head rugose. Femoral pores 3 to 4 in *amurensis* and 1-2 in *tachydromoides* with occasional specimens having three.

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AN INTERESTING FEEDING ACTIVITY OF *MICROHYLA CAROLINENSIS*.—On the night of September 3, 1957, about nine o'clock we were snake collecting on U.S. Highway 441 which crosses Paynes Prairie, five miles south of Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida. While shining our lights on the grass on the road shoulder, we noticed an adult *Microhyla carolinensis* sitting on an ant hill. This hill was about an inch high and three inches in diameter. The ants were not identified. This individual ate several ants as they emerged from the hill. On one occasion the frog lunged for an ant and lost its footing on the loose sand of the hill, but immediately re-oriented itself toward the opening from which the ants were emerging. During the remainder of the evening we observed four more *M. carolinensis*, two of which were engaged in this activity on the same type of ant hills. This leads us to believe that this behavior in *M. carolinensis* may not be merely a chance feeding activity.—J. Alan Holman and Howard Campbell, Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

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TAIL PREHENSION AND RELATED BEHAVIOR IN A NEW WORLD LIZARD.—The use of the tail as an organ of prehension and the propensity for curling the tail during periods of sleep or inactivity are behaviorisms commonly displayed by the old world chameleons (Family Chamaeleontidae). Recorded examples of such behavior outside of this group are rare. The only New World lizards reported to have prehensile tails are members of the Iguanid genus *Xiphocercus* occurring in Jamaica and Hispaniola. *Xiphocercus* was originally separated from *Anolis*, to which it is closely related, on the basis of several anatomical distinctions as well as a supposedly prehensile tail. Recent observations by several West Indian investigators indicate that the tail of *Xiphocercus* is not used as an organ of prehension.

A specimen of the Cuban lizard, *Anolis mestrei abli*, collected at Toppes Collantes, Las Villas Province, was maintained in captivity for approximately one year during which time it displayed caudal behavior strikingly similar to that of the Old World chameleons. Discounting *Xiphocercus*, this behavior is apparently distinct among the New World lizards.