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NOTES ON THE GENUS *LEPIDOBLEPHARIS*  
(*PERACCA*), WITH DESCRIPTION OF  
A NEW SUBSPECIES

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Mr. Parker, in his excellent review<sup>1</sup> of the tiny geckos variously referred by authors to the genera *Lepidoblepharis*, *Lathrogecko*, and *Pseudogonatodes*, has recognized seven species of *Lepidoblepharis* (*Lathrogecko*), of which but two, *L. xanthostigma* (Noble) and *L. sactae-martae* (Ruthven), were known from Central America. A study of a series of specimens from Panama, in the Museum of Comparative Zoology and in the University of Michigan, has revealed some facts of variation which may to some extent increase our knowledge of the forms of this genus.

Six specimens of *L. xanthostigma* from Almirante and La Loma and one from the Chiriqui Province do not show the form of mental plate possessed by the type from Costa Rica and considered by Parker as diagnostic. In other characters the specimens seem to agree with the type. It is possible that two species or subspecies are represented by the material, but

<sup>1</sup> Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 9, XVII, 291.

this cannot be determined without additional specimens from Costa Rica.

The apparent lack of value of the form of the mental plate brings *L. xanthostigma* closer to the other forms characterized by small dorsal scales, and raises a question as to the validity of *L. microlepis* (Noble), the only other form in this group which has keeled dorsal granules. *L. microlepis* is described as having very small dorsals, twenty-four in the distance from the end of the snout to the middle of the eye. The specimens from Panama show that this is a variable character in *L. xanthostigma*. The variation is evident under a lens, but is difficult to measure. The approximate number of dorsal granules corresponding to the distance from the end of the snout to the middle of the eye is from fifteen to twenty-two. It is suggested that *L. microlepis* be placed, at least provisionally, in the synonymy of *L. xanthostigma*.

*L. sanctae-martae* is now known to range from the Santa Marta Mountains to the Canal Zone. A series of Panamanian specimens is now available for study, as it has been found by Barbour in the mountains of eastern Panama and by several investigators on Barro Colorado Island, Canal Zone. A comparison of this material with a series from the type locality, the Santa Marta Mountains, demonstrates that it is possible to distinguish specimens from these regions by a slight but quite constant character. It is proposed to recognize this difference by the description of a new subspecies.

***Lepidoblepharis sanctae-martae fugax*, new subspecies**

*Description*: Similar to *L. sanctae-martae* except that the mental scute is usually bordered posteriorly by five, or less frequently four, scales, a little larger than the throat granules, the middle one generally a little the largest.

*Type specimen*: Cat. No. 62637, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan; Barro Colorado Island, Gatun Lake, Panama. J. Van Tyne, collector. August 6, 1925.

*Range*: Eastern Panama from the Canal Zone to the Sapo Mountains.

*Remarks:* The difference in the size of the post-mental scales in Colombian and Panamanian specimens, while slight, is quite constant. In specimens from the Santa Marta region there are usually three large scales in contact with the mental scute, the middle one the largest, and all three much larger than in Panamanian specimens. Occasionally there are but two post-mentals, and in but one specimen examined are there four.

It is believed that the difference described is of subspecific rather than specific value, and that two forms should be recognized.

