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A NEW SKINK FROM MEXICO

BY ALEXANDER G. RUTHVEN AND HELEN T. GAIGE

THE University of Michigan Expedition¹ to the San Carlos Mountains, Tamaulipas, Mexico, in 1930, brought back a lizard which appears to represent a new species of *Eumeces*. The description of a new skink from a single individual seems a hazardous undertaking in view of the present uncertain status of the named species of this puzzling genus. This specimen, however, differs so widely from all of the known forms that it has been impossible to refer it to any of them. Dr. Edward H. Taylor, of the University of Kansas, who is revising the genus, has examined the specimen, and with his usual generosity, has freely offered advice and suggestions as to its relationships.

Eumeces dicei, sp. nov.

Type Specimen.—Cat. No. 69253, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan; Marmolejo, Tamaulipas; Aug. 1–10, 1930; collected by Dr. Lee R. Dice, for whom it is named.

Diagnosis.—A slender, short limbed *Eumeces*, with narrow head; 22 rows of scales around the body; no postnasal; one

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postmental; two pairs of nuchals; a single very large temporal; large seventh labial entering the ear lobule.

Description.—Snout short, head and body slender, tail missing. Nasal small, no postnasal. Anterior loreal higher than posterior, and forming sutures with first and second labials, nasal, supranasal, internasal, prefrontal, and posterior loreal; 4 supraoculars, second and third largest, 3 anterior in contact with the frontal; parietals separated by interparietal; 2 pairs of nuchals; 7 upper labials, the seventh largest, the sixth almost as large; seventh upper labial bordering the ear lobule; a single large temporal which separates the parietals and labials, almost as large as parietal; bordering it posteriorly is a long narrow scale which also forms sutures with the anterior nuchal and seventh upper labial; anterior border of ear with 1 (left) or 2 (right) small, obtuse lobules; a postmental, and one pair of chin shields in contact. Two large anal scutes.

Scales around body 22, 59 scales from occiput to base of tail; dorsals not enlarged; subcaudals apparently somewhat enlarged (most of tail missing). Limbs feeble, widely separated (by 18 scales) when adpressed; length of hind limb contained $4\frac{1}{4}$ times in length from snout to vent.

Measurements.—Length of head and body, 47 mm.; length of head, 8 mm.; width of head, 5 mm.; forelimb, 9 mm.; hindlimb, 11 mm.

Color (in alcohol).—Dark olive grey above; a yellowish line, changing to greyish white posteriorly, beginning on end of snout, involving internasals, continued on canthus and upper eyelid, and extending on either side of body to base of tail. Anteriorly these light stripes are separated by 4 scales, posteriorly by 6. The light stripes are bordered laterally by a black stripe, beginning at the nostril, passing over ear, involving one and two half scales, and gradually merging into the ventral coloration. Belly somewhat lighter grey than back, but like the back, each scale is darker at its base. Anterior to the axilla the ventral coloration is yellow, spotted

with black across the throat. Upper lip and cheek patch yellow. Legs colored like dorsum above, light beneath.

Remarks.—The specimen belongs to the small headed, short limbed, slender bodied group of species of *Eumeces* from northern Mexico and southeastern United States. Lacking material for comparison, it might have been identified with *brevirostris*, but the Museum of Comparative Zoology has kindly loaned us specimens of this species, which differ sufficiently from the Tamaulipas skink to prove its separate identity. There are two anterior temporals in *brevirostris*, a smaller inferior and a larger superior, much smaller than the parietal, a smaller posterior temporal which is separated from the anterior nuchal by the upper anterior temporal, and the seventh labial is much smaller (the sixth and seventh labials about equal in size) and is cut off from the ear opening by two scales.

E. egregius has a single large temporal, but the last labial is much smaller and is separated from the ear opening by two scales. This species also has two postmentals, normally only three supraoculars, and the two median rows of dorsals are enlarged.

E. lynxae has a different arrangement of the temporals, a wider internasal, a small first supraocular not in contact with the frontal, two median dorsal scale rows somewhat enlarged, and the length of the hind limb is contained 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ times in the length from snout to vent. It also differs widely in coloration.

E. furcicrostris and *E. dugési*, which we have not examined, have, according to the descriptions, but three supraoculars, and 24 rows of scales around the body.

