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THE STATUS OF *PHYLLODACTYLUS SPATULATUS*
COPE

BY ALEXANDER G. RUTHVEN

The identity of *Phyllodactylus pulcher* Gray, *P. martini* Van Lidth de Jeude, and *P. julieni* Cope has been claimed by the writer¹ and Werner.² Barbour³ has also stated that a specimen of *Phyllodactylus* from Curaçao is indistinguishable from the types of *P. spatulatus*. The characters given by Boulenger⁴ are not sufficient to distinguish *P. spatulatus* and *P. pulcher*, and it is evident that the two forms are very closely related, as stated by Werner (*loc. cit.*). The fact that the former was described from Barbados is probably all that has kept herpetologists from referring it to some of the other described forms.

The writer has been able to compare the Curaçao specimen in the Museum of Comparative Zoology with series of speci-

¹ Occas. Pap. Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich., No. 143, 1923, p. 3. .

² Zeitsch. f. Wissensch. Zool., Bd. 25, 1925, p. 535.

³ Mem. Mus. Comp. Zool., 44, 1914, p. 257.

⁴ Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus., 1, 1885, p. 77.

mens from Bonaire, Klein-Bonaire, Aruba, and Curaçao. Through the kindness of Dr. Leonhard Stejneger he has also had a specimen from Bonaire compared with the types of *P. spatulatus* and has obtained drawings of the latter. Finally, Mr. H. W. Parker has supplied a sketch illustrating the characters of the type of *P. pulcher* in the British Museum. With this data and a considerable series of specimens from the Dutch Leeward Islands it has been possible to determine more exactly the status of the several proposed forms.

A critical comparison of the specimens and drawings shows that two forms must be recognized, one on Curaçao, Bonaire, and Klein-Bonaire, and the other on Aruba. The two forms are distinguished by the number of the scales bordering the mental plate. The specimens from Aruba (9) have, as described by Cope,⁵ 3 scales bordering the mental posteriorly. In the type of *P. pulcher* and in 15 specimens from Curaçao, Bonaire, and Klein-Bonaire there are 2 scales immediately behind the mental, except in one specimen from Curaçao in which there is a small third scale that has evidently been formed by the transection of the posterior angle of the mental. It is to be remarked that Van Lidth de Jeude described the type of *P. martini* as having a single large scale behind the mental. This is evidently an abnormal condition, or the scutes are not properly described.

The Barbados specimens described as *P. spatulatus* evidently represent an accidental introduction from Aruba. The name antedates *P. julienni* and should be used for the Aruban form. *P. pulcher* is the correct name for specimens from Curaçao, Bonaire, and Klein-Bonaire, and has as a synonym *P. martini*. Although apparently constant, the only recognizable difference between the two forms is slight. They may, for the present, be treated as species, but may ultimately be reduced to varieties.

⁵ Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc., XXII, 1885, p. 180.

