

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Flores-Villela, O.A., H.M. Smith, E.A. Liner, and D. Chiszar. 2010. *Sceloporus subpictus*.

***Sceloporus subpictus* Lynch and Smith**  
**Southern Cursorial Lizard**  
**Paintbelly Spiny Lizard**  
**Lagartija escamosa de panza pinta**

*Sceloporus consobrinus*: Günther 1890:69 (part).  
*Sceloporus graciosus*: Günther 1890:71 (part).  
*Sceloporus subpictus* Lynch and Smith 1965a:173.  
 Type-locality "San Andrés Chicahuastla, Oaxaca, [Mexico]". Holotype, University of Illinois Museum of Natural History (UIMNH) 53127, an adult female, collected by T. MacDougall on 5 May 1963 (examined by HMS).

• **CONTENT.** No subspecies have been proposed.

• **DEFINITION.** A member of the *formosus* species group with the following characteristics: imbricate lateral and postfemoral scales; no postfemoral dermal pocket; femoral pores unilaterally 13–19, the two series separated by 2–5 scales; dorsal scale rows 32–37; ventral scales notched; usually four postrostrals, never two; a single internasal on at least one side; two canthals; six enlarged medial supraoculars, separated completely from the median head scales with the anterior scale contacting the anterior superciliary; 5–6 lateral supraoculars, 1/6–2/5 the size of the medial supraoculars, contacting the superciliaries and separating them from the medial supraoculars; paired frontal-prefrontal ridges, with a distinct concavity between them; the anterior section of the frontal not longitudinally divided; tail round in cross-section; pre-anals smooth in females. A dorsolateral light line one-half scale row wide and a lateral light line one scale row wide are present, both more prominent in males. A very dark line between the two light lines is present. A black spot, with a posterior light border, is present between the lateral nuchal pocket and the arm, extending dorsad to the dorsolateral light line. The dorsum has irregular dark brown markings or two rows of spots, tending to be longitudinally arranged, prominent in females and dim or absent in males. They are never green as in sympatric male *S. formosus*. There is a horizontal light line, bordered above and below by a black line, on the posterior surface of the thigh. Adult males have a dark blue throat, the sides of the abdomen are dark blue, dark-edged medially, and usually separated. The chest is unmarked. Females are unmarked ventrally. Maximum known SVL is 66 mm. The species is viviparous, *fide* observation of birth of young by P. Heimes (pers. comm.).

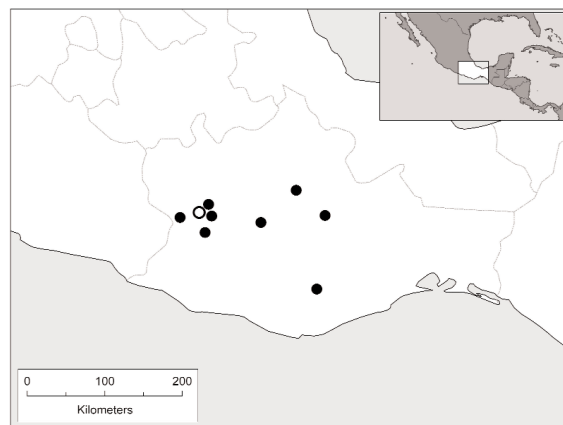
• **DESCRIPTIONS.** Significant descriptions are given in Köhler and Heimes (2002), Lynch and Smith (1965a), Smith and Lynch (1967), Smith et al. (2000b), and Webb and Baker (1969).



**FIGURE 1.** Male *Sceloporus subpictus* (ENS 9709, UTA Slide Collection 24947) from Oaxaca, Mexico. Photograph by E.N. Smith.

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Black-and-white photographs are in Lynch and Smith (1965a), and color in Köhler and Heimes (2002). Wiens and Reeder (1997) provided line drawings of outer posterior skull elements. Sites et al. (1992) illustrated the karyotype.

• **DISTRIBUTION.** Oak-pine forests (Flores and Gérez 1994) of west-central, north-central and south-central Oaxaca. On the accompanying map, the southernmost dot is for Sierra de Miahuatlán (Köhler and Heimes 2002); the nearest to the north is for Sierra de Cuatro Venados, mpio Zaachila (AMNH);



**MAP.** The circle indicates the type-locality, dots indicate other records.

and the northernmost is for the Sierra de Juárez (Llano de las Flores, Macuiltianguis, Cerro Humo and Cerro Humo Chico). A range map is in Smith (2001).

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** In addition to the references already given, the following apply as stated: **anatomy and morphology** (Burstein et al. 1974; Larsen and Tanner 1974), **behavior** (Carpenter 1978, 1986), **comparisons with congeners** (Dasmann and Smith 1974 (*S. halli*); Acevedo 2009, Pérez-Ramos and Saldaña-de La Riva 2008 (members of the *formosus* group); Smith and Lynch 1967 (*S.*

*cryptus*); Smith and Savitzky 1974 (*S. adleri*); Webb and Baker 1969 (*S. cryptus*), **conservation** (SEMARNAT (2002), **distribution and ecology** (Bojórquez-Tapia et al. 1995; Canseco-Márquez and Gutiérrez-Mayén 2005; Casas-Andreu et al. 1996; Flores-Villela 1993; Flores-Villela and Gérez 1988, 1994; Köhler and Heimes 2002), **karyology** (Gilboa 1974; Hall 1980), **phylogeny and systematics** (Boulenger 1885, 1897; Flores et al. 2000; Günther 1890; Larsen and Tanner 1975; Leaché 2010; Sites et al. 1992; Smith 2001; Wiens 1993, 1999; Wiens and Reeder 1995, 1997; Wiens et al. 2010; Wills 1977), **reproduction** (Fitch 1970; Guillette et al. 1980). The species occurs in the following **checklists, faunal lists and similar compendia**: Bell et al. (2003), Casas-Andreu (1996), Casas-Andreu et al. (2004), CCNNPA (2000), Frank and Ramus (1995), Goyenechea-Mayer et al. (1993), Guillette et al. (1980), Huchins et al. (2003), Liner (1994, 2007), Liner and Casas-Andreu (2008), Savitzky and Smith (1972), SEMARNAT (2002), Smith (1987, 1992), Smith and Smith (1976, 1993), Smith et al. (1964), Smith and Taylor (1966), Sokolov (1988), and Wills (1977).

• **REMARKS.** The validity of *S. cryptus* was enigmatic even when it was described, but *S. subpictus* was long known from very few specimens and was considered rare (Smith and Jones 1992; Smith et al. 2000a). Webb and Baker (1969) were the first to report a series of specimens from near the type-locality of *S. subpictus*, and they found no tangible differences between it and *S. cryptus*, although they did not explicitly synonymize the two names. Widely separated ranges was from the outset a significant factor in regarding the two populations as distinct, but more recent collections indicate a continuity of distributions along the southern and eastern edge of the Oaxaca Plateau.

Virtually nothing is known of the natural history of the species. It may be micro-allopatric with the macrosympatric *S. formosus*, minimizing competition.

The BMNH specimen referred to this species as *Sceloporus consobrinus* by Günther (1890) and Boulenger (1885, 1897), and long catalogued in BMNH as *S. undulatus thayeri*, was identified by locality as *S. subpictus* by Smith (1987), but it is actually a specimen of *S. halli* (Smith et al. 2000b). Their *S. gratio-sus* from the same locality are *S. jalapae*.

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The name *subpictus* (Latin “sub” = under, with the inference of similarity) was applied to this species under the impression that its closest relative was what was then known as *Sceloporus megal-lepidurus pictus*, because of similarity of ventral pattern in males. Their relationship is now known not to be close (Wiens and Reeder 1997; Wiens 1999). However, the standard English name for the species was drawn from the scientific name and from the error of association with *S. pictus*, the Painted Spiny Lizard.

• **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.** We are much indebted to G. Schneider of UMMZ, R.G. Webb of UTEP, and

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