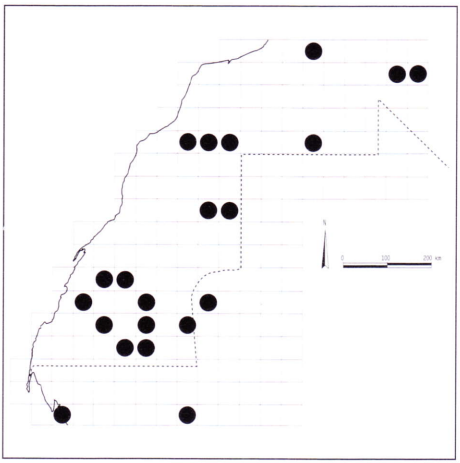
Acanthodactylus dumerili (Milnes Edwards, 1829)

English: Duméril's fringe-toed lizard;
Spanish: Lagartija de Duméril;
Hassanya: Zelam



World distribution. – Small lizard characteristic of the *Ergs* and sandbanks of the western half of the Sahara. In Mauritania reaches the coast.

Biogeographic affinities. – Palearctic (Saharan aff.).

Distribution in the Western Sahara. – This small lizard is present in almost all the interior regions of the territory. It is missing, however, from the whole coastal region where it is replaced by *A. aureus*.

Subspecies in the Western Sahara. – According to our experience, *A. dumerili* should be considered a monotypic species, although individuals from Mauritania and the Western Sahara have on occasions 12 rows of longitudinal ventral scales instead of 14, and a generally paler coloration. On the other hand, the small lizards of Senegal, Mali and Mauritania up to now included in the nominal subspecies, belong in fact to another species: *A. senegalensis* (Crochet et al., 2003).

Preferred habitat. – In the Western Sahara, it is a species restricted to the continental sandbanks (*ergs* and dunes). In Mauritania, it is found in the coastal dunes of white sand.

Observations. – Species of *Acanthodactylus* of the psammophilous complex of *A. scutellatus*, a very difficult group that is still an object of strong controversies. It can be identified by the following characters: 4 lines of scales around the toes, very fine dorsal scales, granulated and lightly keeled; 12 or 14 longitudinal series of ventral scales, 5 supralabial scales before the subocular. Subocular in contact with the 3rd and 4th supralabials, and a similar coloration to that of the sand, smoothly marbled with somewhat darker tones; the belly is almost pure white.

Conservation. – In the Western Sahara and in the world, *Lower risk-least concern* (*LR-lc*).

Important references. – Valverde (1957); Bons & Geniez (1996); Geniez et al. (2000); Crochet et al. (2003).



Photo 116: *Acanthodactylus dumerili* adult female. 98 km from Awserd towards Dakhla (Western Sahara). M. Geniez



Photo 117: *Acanthodactylus dumerili* juvenile. Boularyah, 20 km north-west of Awserd (Western Sahara). M. Geniez



Photo 118: *Acanthodactylus dumerili* adult male. Boularyah, 20 km north-west of Awserd (Western Sahara). M. Geniez

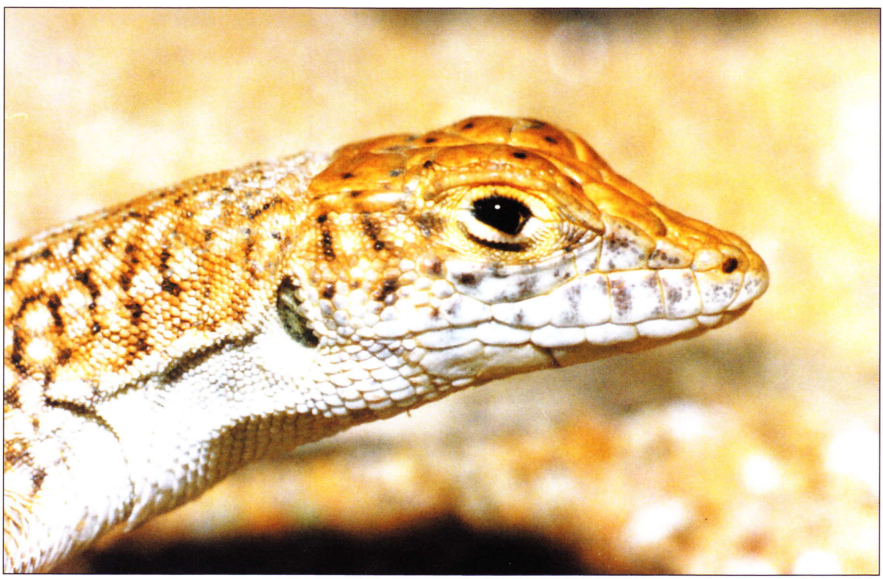


Photo 119: *Acanthodactylus dumerili* adult male. Boularyah, 20 km north-west of Awserd (Western Sahara). M. Geniez