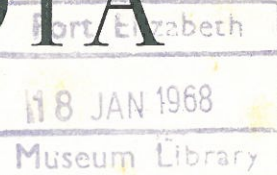


ARNOLDIA

(RHODESIA)

NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF RHODESIA



No. 24

Volume 3

1st December, 1967

A NEW SPECIES OF *ICHNOTROPIS* (SAURIA: LACERTIDAE) FROM THE BOTSWANA—CAPRIVI BORDER

by
DONALD G. BROADLEY,
Umtali Museum, Rhodesia

Among the herpetological material collected by the Botswana Mammal Survey are three specimens of an undescribed species of lacertid:

ICHNOTROPIS GRANDICEPS sp. nov. Figs. 1-3

Holotype: United States National Museum No. 163989, an adult male from 25 miles west of Mohebo, Botswana, on the border of the Caprivi Strip (South West Africa). Collected by T. N. Liversedge and S. W. Goussard on 20th May, 1967.

Paratypes: UM. 16278 and USNM. 163990, a male and a juvenile with the same data as the holotype.

Diagnosis: An *Ichnotropis* with a single frontonasal, subocular bordering the lip, a single anterior loreal, prefrontals well separated from the anterior supraocular and supraciliaries separated from the supraoculars by a series of small scales. Distinguished from *I. capensis* (with which it is sympatric) by its large head and small body scales in 44-47 rows at midbody (28-43 in *I. capensis*), and also by consistently having five upper labials anterior to the subocular (four is usual in *I. capensis*). The new species resembles *I. microlepidota* Marx in its small body scales, but can be distinguished by its larger size, prefrontals separated from anterior supraocular, five instead of four upper labials anterior to subocular and more numerous lamellae under the fourth toe (23-26 instead of 16-17). The striations on the head shields of the new species appear to be more feebly developed than in any other form in the genus. The large trapeziform occipital wedged between the parietals is distinctive, for in other forms of the *capensis* group the occipital usually extends back well beyond the level of the parietals.

Description (paratype variations in parentheses): Upper head shields very feebly striated (fig. 3, centre); nostril pierced between three nasals, the supranasals in broad contact behind the rostral; frontonasal one and a half times as broad as long; prefrontals twice as long as broad, in broad contact mesially, not reaching the anterior of two large supraoculars, in contact with (right side and both paratypes) or separated

Received, 1st November, 1967.

from (left side) the anterior loreal; frontal twice as long as its maximum width between the posterior tips of the prefrontals, strongly narrowed posteriorly; frontoparietals longer than broad; parietals longer than broad, widely separated by a large interparietal and occipital, the latter trapeziform in shape and its posterior margin level with the posterior borders of the parietals; an elongate keeled upper temporal shield

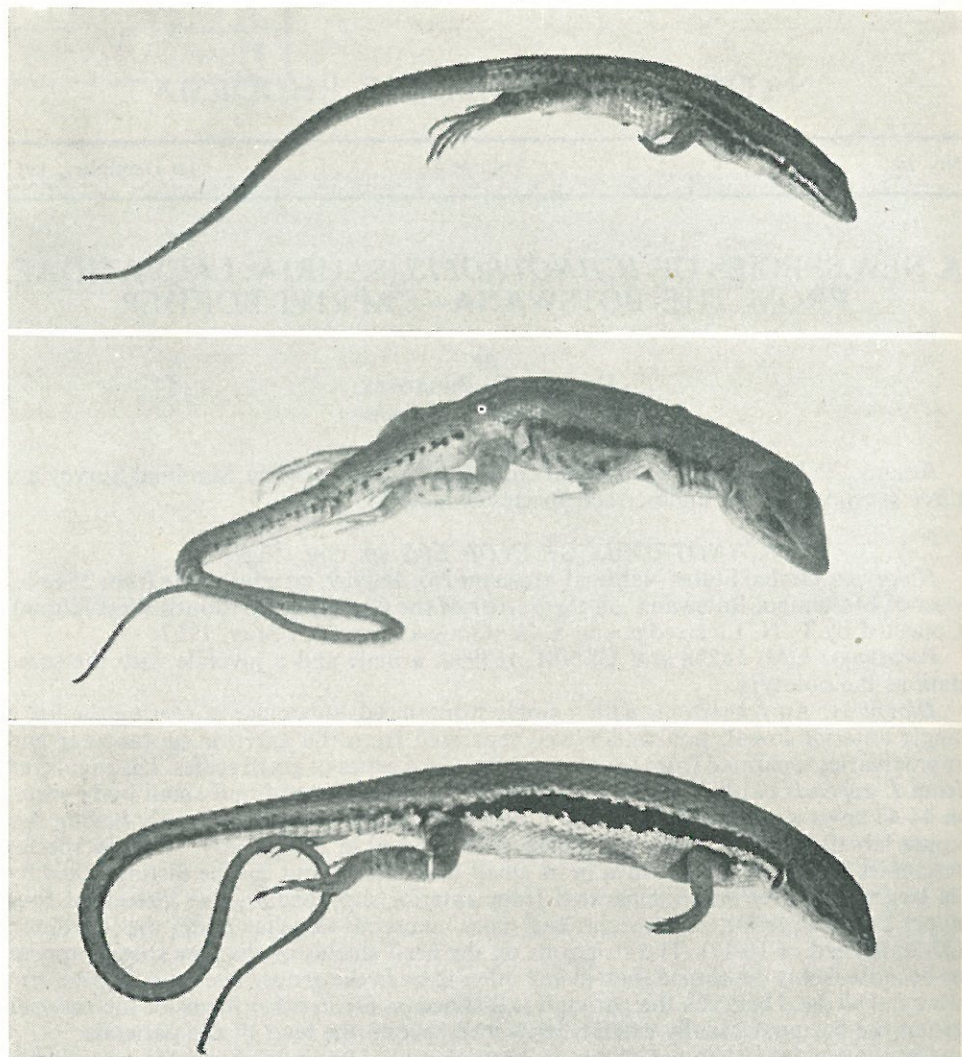


PLATE 1. Lateral views of three species of *Ichnotropis*:
upper, *I. bivittata bivittata*, UM. 12728 from Masombwe, Parc National de l'Upemba, Katanga, Congo;
centre, *I. grandiceps*, holotype;
lower, *I. capensis capensis*, UM. 12225 from Sazale Pan, Gona-re-Zhou, Rhodesia.

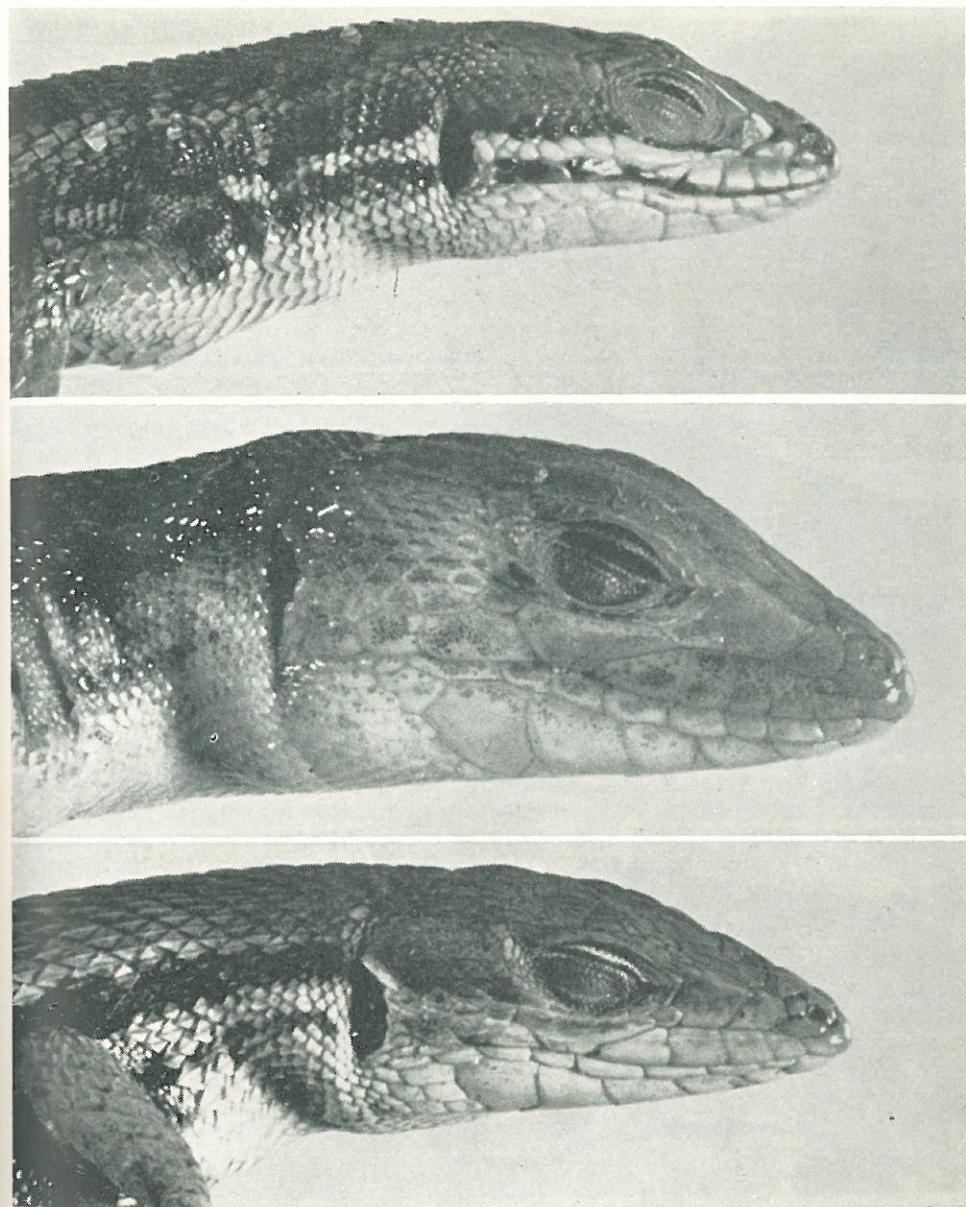


PLATE 2. Lateral views of the heads of three species of *Ichnotropis*:
upper, *I. bivittata bivittata*, UM. 12728 from Masombwe, Parc National de l'Upemba, Katanga, Congo;
centre, *I. grandiceps*, holotype;
lower, *I. capensis capensis*, UM. 12225 from Sazale Pan, Gona-re-Zhou, Rhodesia.

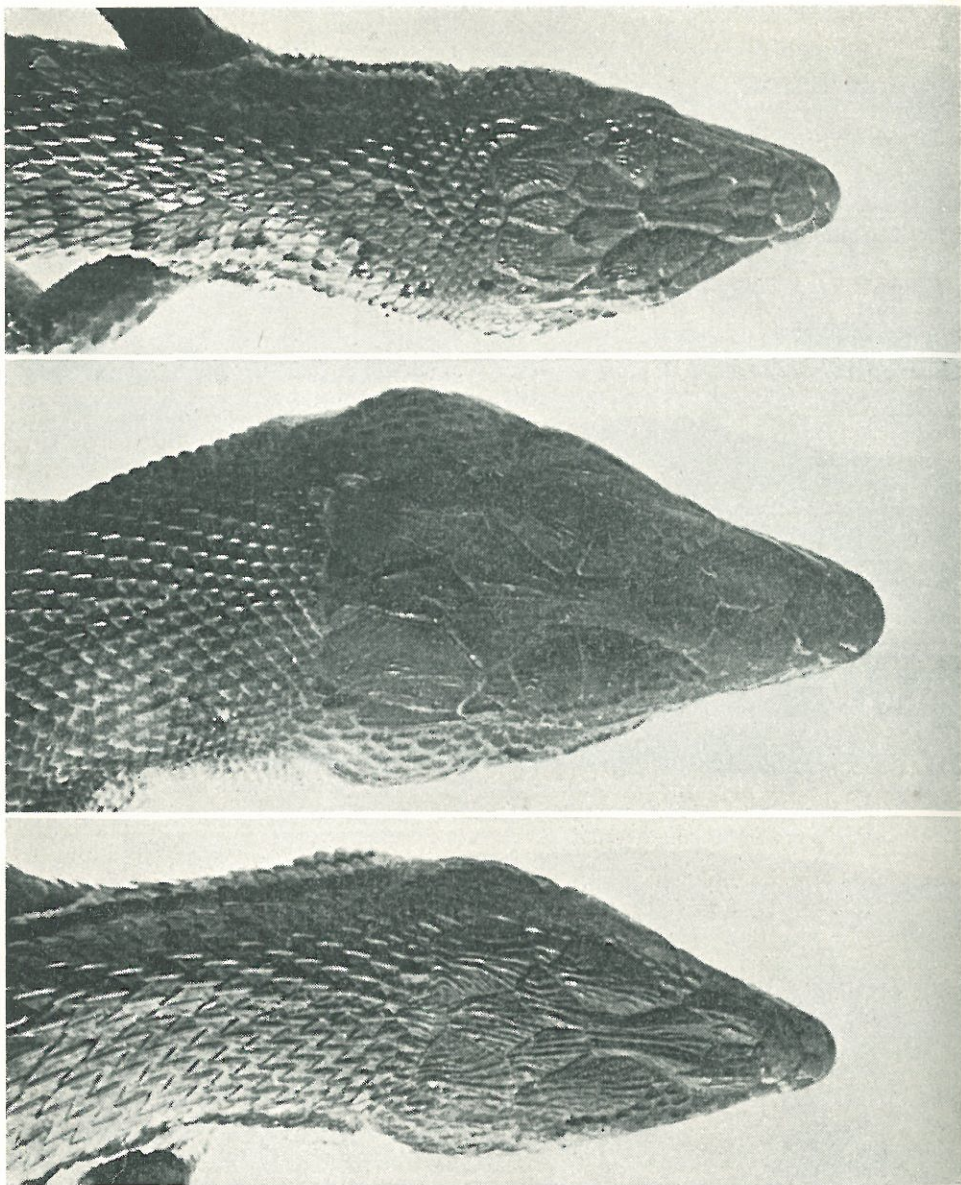


PLATE 3. Dorsal views of the heads of three species of *Ichnotropis*: upper, *I. bivittata bivittata*, UM. 12728 from Masombwe, Parc National de l'Upemba, Katanga, Congo; centre, *I. grandiceps*, holotype; lower, *I. capensis capensis*, UM. 12225 from Sazale Pan, Gona-re-Zhou, Rhodesia.

borders the parietal; three supraoculars, the third small, separated from the supraciliaries by 15-17 (12-17) small keeled scales; five supraciliaries, the anterior two much the longest and forming a long oblique suture.

Lower nasal in contact with rostral, first labial and anterior loreal; postnasal small, in contact with the other two nasals, frontonasal and anterior loreal; two loreals, the posterior much the larger; five upper labials anterior to the subocular, whose lower border on lip is much shorter than the upper, three upper labials posterior to subocular; temporal scales strongly keeled; a narrow tympanic shield on the upper anterior edge of the vertically elongate ear opening; lower eyelid with a median series of vertically elongate scales.

Seven or eight (6-7) lower labials; five pairs of large chin shields, the first three pairs in median contact; gular scales imbricate.

Dorsal scales rhombic, strongly keeled and imbricate, laterals smaller and feebly keeled, passing gradually into the smooth, rounded ventrals, which are broader than long; 46 (44-47) scales round middle of body; ventrals in about 10 longitudinal and 30 transverse rows between fore and hind limbs; preanal scales irregular; scales on upper surfaces of limbs rhombic, strongly keeled and imbricate; 13 (12-13) femoral pores on each side; subdigital lamellae pluricarinate and spinulose, 24 (23-26) under the fourth toe; caudal scales strongly keeled except those just posterior to the vent, which are smooth.

Body moderately depressed; head not depressed, one and a half times as long as broad, its length equivalent to 26 (29-34)% of snout-vent length, expanded in the temporal region and very distinct from the neck. Adpressed hind limb reaches almost to the ear opening. Ratio of foot length/head length is 1.20 (1.21-1.27).

Length of head and body 70 mm., tail 148 mm.

Coloration (in alcohol): Above pale grey-brown, with darker stippling and a few scattered dark spots (not covering more than one scale) on body and tail; a poorly defined dark dorso-lateral band extends from neck to groin, where it breaks up into a line of lateral spots on the tail; side of head and lower flanks white with dark stippling; ventrum white. In the paratypes the dark lateral band is absent.

Habitat: Collected along the border road in open woodland on Kalahari sand. Associated reptiles were *Ichnotropis capensis capensis* (2 juveniles); *Ichnotropis squamulosa* (1 adult); *Mabuya spilogaster* and *Mabuya striata wahlbergi*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to the United States National Museum for allowing me to examine the herpetological material collected by their African Mammal Survey Team in Botswana.

References:

- BOULENGER, G. A. (1921). Monograph of the Lacertidae. 2, London: British Museum (Nat. Hist.).
 FITZSIMONS, V. F. M. (1943). Lizards of South Africa. Pretoria: Transvaal Museum Memoir No. 1.
 LAURENT, R. F. (1964). Reptiles et Amphibiens de l'Angola (Troisieme contribution). *Publ. Cult. Comp. Diam. Angola*, 67, 11-165.
 MARX, H. (1956). A new lacertid lizard from Angola. *Fieldiana: Zoology*, 39, 2, 5-9.
 WITTE, G. F. de (1953). Reptiles. Exploration du Parc National de l'Upemba. Mission G. F. de Witte, 6, 1-322.