

Scientific Note

NOTES ON THE CORRECTED IDENTIFICATION AND REDESCRIPTION OF A GROUND LIZARD, *PLATYPLACOPUS KUEHNEI*, WITH A REVISED KEY OF THE FAMILY LACERTIDAE FROM TAIWAN

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Jun-Yi Lin and Hsien-Yu Cheng (1980) Notes on the corrected identification and redescription of a ground lizard, *Platyplacopus kuehnei*, with a revised key of the family Lacertidae from Taiwan. *Bull. Inst. Zool. Academia Sinica* 19(2): 63-65. The measurements and description of a new specimen of the Formosan ground lizard, *Platyplacopus kuehnei* (Van Denburgh) collected from Taipei in 1977, were given. *Platyplacopus kuehnei* which has been mistakenly named *Takydromus kuehnei* since 1909 should be rectified. A revised key is given for the family Lacertidae in Taiwan.

Takydromus kuehnei, a ground lizard, was collected and named by Van Denburgh in 1909 in Taiwan and placed it in the family Lacertidae⁽⁹⁾. Boulenger⁽¹⁾ noticed that the ground lizard had a significant difference in the digit structure from the genus *Takydromus*, and suggested that a new genus *Platyplacopus* be used in its stead. However, many authors who have been unable to ascertain its correct status because no specimen has been found since 1909, continued to name the ground lizard *Takydromus kuehnei*^(3,4,6,7).

We collected one specimen of *Platyplacopus kuehnei* from Wai-shuang-hsi, Taipei, whose digit structure was different from that of *Takydromus septentrionalis* and *Takydromus formosanus*. Since *Platyplacopus kuehnei* has been mistakenly named *Takydromus kuehnei* and has not been found since 1909, we describe the characteristics of this ground lizard, *P. kuehnei*,

and the differences between the genera *Takydromus* and *Platyplacopus*. A key is also given for the family Lacertidae in Taiwan.

According to Boulenger⁽²⁾ and Pope⁽⁸⁾, the Formosan ground lizard occurred in Taiwan and in northern parts of Kuangtung. The Kuangtung ground lizard, *Takydromus chinensis* Vogt, 1914⁽¹⁰⁾, appeared similar to the Formosan ground lizard *P. kuehnei*. Furthermore, Kuroda⁽⁵⁾ also found a subspecies of the Formosan ground lizard in the central parts of the Hai-nan Island. In Taiwan, *P. kuehnei* had been collected from Kuantzuling (Kuanshirei) and Taipei (Taipei)⁽²⁾.

A revised key for lacertid lizards in Taiwan and the description and measurements of *P. kuehnei* are given as follows:

Family LACERTIDAE

Key for Identification of Lacertid Lizard in

Taiwan.

1. Distal joint of digits continuous with the preceding ones, not compressed proximally (**Plate 1**) .. (*Takydromus*).....2
- Distal joint of digits not continuous with the preceding ones, compressed proximally with an angle (**Plate 2**).....*Platyplacopus kuehnei*
2. Submental shields, three pairs.....3
- Submental shields, four pairs.....*T. sauteri*
3. Femoral pore, one on each side.. *T. septentrionalis*
- Femoral pore, two on each side.... *T. formosarus*

The Description and Measurements of *Platyplacopus kuehnei*.*Platyplacopus kuehnei* (Van Denburgh)

Takydromus kuehnei Van Denburgh, 1909, Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., (4) III, p. 50⁽⁹⁾.

Takydromus chinensis Vogt, 1914, Sitzber. Ges. Nat. Freunde Berlin, p. 98⁽¹⁰⁾.

Platyplacopus kuehnei Boulenger, 1917, Mem. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, V, p. 232, Pl. XLVII⁽¹¹⁾.

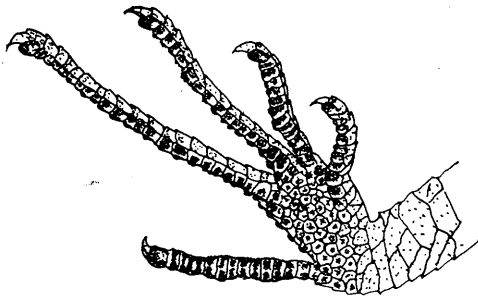


Plate 1. Digit structure of *Takydromus septentrionalis*.

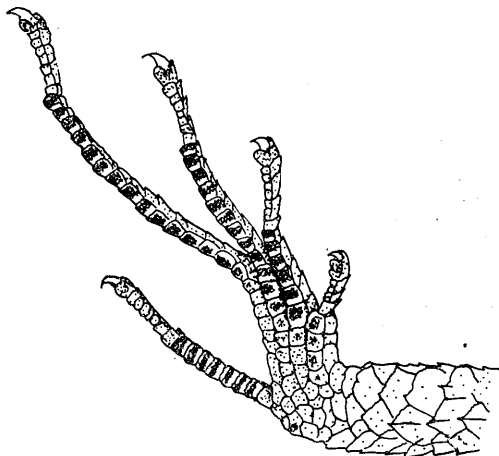


Plate 2. Digit structure of *Platyplacopus kuehnei*.

Description: Four pairs of chin-shields, the two anterior in contact in the middle. Nostril situated between four shields. Rostral not touching the nostril and fronto-nasal; fronto-nasal and prefrontals a little longer than broad; frontal with a medial keel, as long as the fronto-parietals, $1\frac{2}{3}$ times as long as broad; interparietal $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as broad, separated into three parts. Four supraoculars, first very small, second and third equal, fourth small; temporal scales very small, granular and keeled; and enlarged anterior upper temporal, not in contact with the fourth supraocular.

Dorsal plates truncate behind, in six to seven longitudinal series and all plates keeled; ventral plates in six longitudinal rows, only the outer keeled. Sides minutely granulated.

Upper surface of limbs with rhombic keeled scales. Five femoral pores on each side. Twenty-five lamellar scales under the fourth toe of right hind foot.

Caudal scales strongly keeled and shortly mucronate.

Measurements:

	(A)	(B)
Snout to vent length.....	59.2 mm	60 mm
Tail length.....	41.2*	120<
Greatest width of head.....	7.7	9
Snout to the anterior edge of the eye.....	7.0	—
Snout to the posterior edge of the ear.....	15.3	—
Fore leg length from axilla.....	22.0	23
Hind leg length from groin.....	30.5	32
Foot length.....	16.3	17

A: our specimen, male.

B: Boulenger's specimen, male.

*: Tail broken, and with 2.1 mm regenerated tail.

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臺灣地蜥 (*Platyplacopus kuehnei*) 的正名及修正 的蜥蜴科 (Lacercidae) 檢索表

林俊義 鄭先祐

本文描述一臺灣地蜥新標本的特徵和量度。根據其腳趾的構造，我們認為臺灣地蜥應歸屬於 *Platyplacopus* 屬，其學名應為 *Platyplacopus Kuehnei* (Van Denburgh)，而不是自 1909 年以來為學者所用的 *Takydromus Kuehnei*。文中提出修正後蜥蜴科的齊頭式檢索表。