

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

BROOKS, GARNETT R. 1975. *Scincella lateralis*.*Scincella lateralis* (Say)
Ground skink

Scincus lateralis Say, 1823:324 (not of Daudin, 1802). Type-locality, "banks of the Mississippi River below Cape Girardeau [Cape Girardeau County], Missouri." Holotype, U. S. Natl. Mus. 3152, collected by S. W. Woodhouse (not examined by author).

Scincus unicolor Harlan, 1825:156. Type-locality, "Southern States," restricted to Charleston, South Carolina by Schmidt (1953:147). Type-specimen not known to exist.

Tiliqua lateralis: Gray, 1831:70. New combination.

Lygosoma lateralis: Duméril and Bibron, 1839:719. New combination.

Mocosa lateralis: Gray, 1845:83. New combination.

Oligosoma laterale: Cope, 1875:44. New combination.

Leiopisma laterale: Jordan, 1899:201. New combination.

Liolepisma laterale: Cope, 1900:622. Emendation.

Leiopisma unicolor: Stejneger, 1934:182. See Nomenclatural History.

Scincella laterale: Mittleman, 1950:19. New combination.

Scincella lateralis: Greer, 1974:7. Change to agree with generic gender.

• CONTENT. The species is monotypic, but see Comment.

• DEFINITION. A small (males to 50 mm, females to 55 mm snout-vent length) skink with paired frontoparietals, and median subcaudal scales in contact laterally with two scales on each side. The upper tertiary temporal (occasionally split) contacts

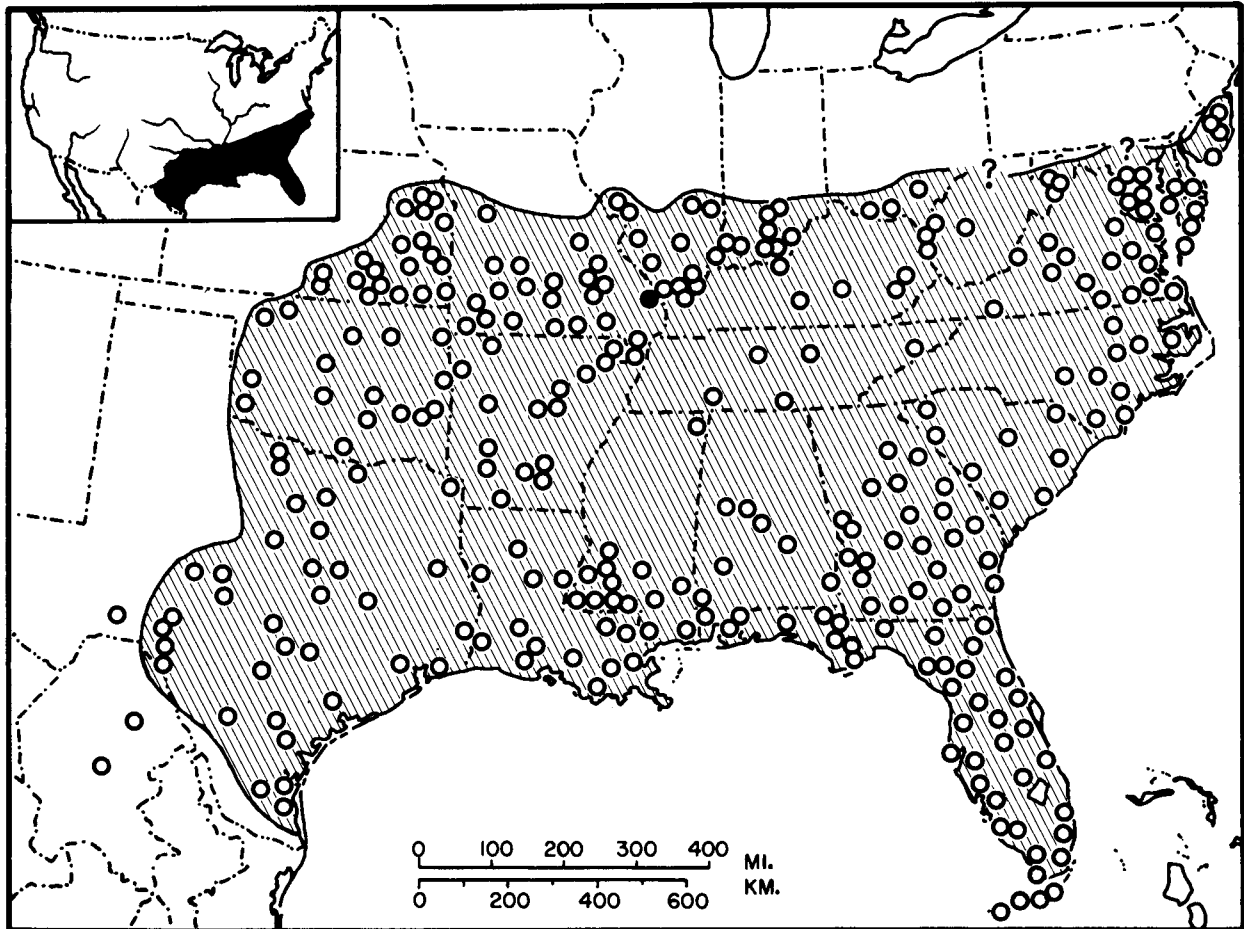
the parietal, and there are three pairs of enlarged nuchal scales. Dorsal color varies from light tan to olive brown, sometimes with scattered flecks of dark pigment. A dark dorsolateral stripe runs from the snout, through the eye to the base of the tail. There are six full dorsal scale rows between the dorsolateral stripes. The venter varies from cream to pale yellow. There is no sexual dimorphism in color or pattern.

• DESCRIPTIONS. The original description by Say (1823) was vague and generalized. Detailed descriptions are in Cope (1900) and H. Smith, (1946).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Black and white photographs are in McCauley (1945), H. Smith (1946, 1956), Conant (1951), Parmalee (1955), Schmidt and Inger (1957), P. Smith (1961), Anderson (1965), Huheey and Stupka (1967), Minton (1972), and Collins (1974). Black and white photographs of adult female with eggs, and of newly hatched young are in Lewis (1951). Color illustrations are in Conant (1975), Cochran and Goin (1970), and Barbour (1971). Cope (1900), Burt (1935), and H. Smith (1946, 1956) provide diagrams of scutellation.

• DISTRIBUTION. *Scincella lateralis* ranges from southern New Jersey (where rare), southward to the Florida Keys, westward through southern Ohio to eastern Kansas, most of Oklahoma, and west-central Texas. Disjunct populations occur from the Stockton Plateau region of Texas southwestward into Mexico (Smith and Buechner, 1947; Milstead, 1960a). A record from the Cayuga Lake Basin, New York (Reed and Wright, 1909) is in error (Bishop, 1918). Pennsylvania records (Surface, 1908; Roddy, 1928), were rejected by Netting (1930).

Distribution records are as follows (works with asterisk contain literature reviews): ALABAMA: Burt (1937). ARKANSAS: Burt and Hoyle (1934), Taylor (1935), Dowling (1957*). DELAWARE: Conant (1958). FLORIDA: Carr



MAP. Solid circle indicates the type-locality; open circles mark other localities. Localities outside the shaded area indicate presumably isolated populations.

(1940*), Burt (1937), Duellman and Schwartz (1958*), Blaney (1971). GEORGIA: Wright and Funkhouser (1915), Burt (1937), Neill (1948b, 1951), Martof (1963). ILLINOIS: Peters (1942), P. Smith (1961*), Holman and Arai (1962). INDIANA: Minton (1944, 1972*). KANSAS: Burt (1928*), Burt and Hoyle (1934), H. Smith (1956*), Collins (1974*). KENTUCKY: Welter and Carr (1939), Chenoweth (1949), Hirschfeld (1963), Barbour (1971*). LOUISIANA: Penn (1943). MARYLAND: McCauley (1945*), Harris (1969). MISSISSIPPI: Cook (1943), P. Smith and List (1955), Ferguson (1961). MISSOURI: Henning (1938), Anderson (1965*). NEW JERSEY: Burt (1931). NORTH CAROLINA: Burt (1937), DePoe, Funderburg and Quay (1961*). OHIO: Conant (1951*), Dennis (1958), Seibert (1961). OKLAHOMA: Burt and Hoyle (1934), Webb (1970*), McCoy (in press). SOUTH CAROLINA: Burt (1937). TENNESSEE: Burt (1937), Parker (1937, 1939), Sinclair (1968). TEXAS: Brown (1950), Milstead, Mecham and McClintock (1950), Raun (1959), Milstead (1960b), Raun and Gehlbach (1972*). VIRGINIA: Musick (1972), Tobey (1972). MEXICO: Schmidt and Owens (1944), Williams, H. Smith and Chrapliwy (1960).

Scincella lateralis shows wide ecological tolerance, occurring in such diverse habitats as sub-tropical hammocks in Florida, mixed hardwood forests in Virginia, and open forest-grassland in central Texas.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. Lewis (1951) and Mather (1970) reported on habits, reproduction and feeding in Texas. Brooks (1967) studied population ecology in Florida. Fitch (1970) reviewed literature on reproductive cycles. Werler (1951) presented measurements of eggs, and Davis (1945) described hatching. The reproductive cycle in Kansas was described by Fitch and Greene (1965). Johnson (1953) studied reproductive biology of a Louisiana population. Ballinger and Clark (1973) measured the energy content of eggs and estimated reproductive effort. Brooks (1964b) described the copulatory position. Jones (1969) studied effect of gonadotropins on ovaries and oviducts. Size records were published by Corrado and McDuffie (1962), and Snyder (1965).

Food habits were reported by Slater (1949) who also reviewed literature prior to 1949, Lewis (1951), Harney (1955), Hamilton and Pollack (1961), and Brooks (1964a). Parasites were described by Harwood (1930, 1932, 1936), Byrd (1937), Hughes, Baker and Dawson (1941), Hughes, Higginbotham and Clary (1942), Herban (1971), and Brooks (1972). Predators were listed by Schmidt (1932), Neill (1948c), Limer (1949), Hamilton and Pollack (1955), Carpenter (1958), Bush (1959), Greeding (1964), Kennedy (1964), Greene and Oliver (1965), Brooks (1967), Willard (1967), Bowie (1973), and Clark (1974).

Funderburg and Lee (1968) reported occurrence in pocket gopher mounds, and Lee (1969) recorded the cabbage palm as habitat, both in Florida. Neill (1948a) noted hibernation sites in Georgia. Turner (1960) reported on density in optimum habitats, and Myers (1959) recorded a population shift in Missouri. Fitch (1956) gave temperature data from field studies. Hudson and Bertram (1966) studied physiological effects of temperature. Wilson (1964) scaled these data to body weight. Hunsaker and Johnson (1959) described internal pigmentation and U-V transmission of the integument. Hutchison and Larimer (1960) reported on reflectivity of the integument. Resistance to gamma radiation was studied by Brooks (1962). Regal (1966) reported a thermophilic response after feeding.

Anatomy of the nasal region was described by Parsons (1959). Lynn and Walsh (1957) studied morphology of the thyroid. Hebard and Charipper (1955a, 1955b) described histology and histochemistry of the adrenal. Jamison (1964) reported on tail regeneration, and Clark (1971) on strategy of tail autotomy. Simpson studied limb regeneration (1960, 1961), and tail regeneration (1963, 1964). Rhoten (1971) presented light and electron microscope studies of pancreatic islets. Wright (1973) described the karyotype ($2N = 29$ or 30) and a geographically variable sex chromosome mechanism.

• NOMENCLATURE HISTORY. Stejneger (1934:182) suggested that *Scincus lateralis* was unavailable to Say, being preoccupied by *Lucerta lateralis* Thunberg (= *Chalcides ocellatus*), as used in the combination *Scincus lateralis* by Daudin (1802) and others. Stejneger resurrected *Scincus unicolor* Harlan, and the species appeared as *Leiopisma unicolor* in subsequent editions of the North American check list (Stejneger and Barbour, 1939, 1943). Harper (1942:180) reinstated Say's name. Boulenger

(1887) considered *lateralis* conspecific with several Asian species. Stejneger (1907) and others followed this arrangement, but Schmidt (1927) returned to the concept of *lateralis* as an exclusively North American species. Acceptance of the genus *Scincella* Mittleman (1950) was neither immediate nor general, and the species appears much more frequently in the literature as *Leiopisma laterale* or *Lygosoma laterale*. *Scincella* is used here following Greer (1974).

• ETYMOLOGY. The name *lateralis* refers to the dark dorso-lateral stripes.

COMMENT

No subspecies have been described, but there are considerable differences in scale counts and resistance to dehydration between populations from Florida and Texas (Brooks, unpubl.). The systematic status of the disjunct Mexican populations is currently under study by C. J. McCoy.

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Primary editor for this account, C. J. McCoy.

Published October 22, 1975 by the SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES.