

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

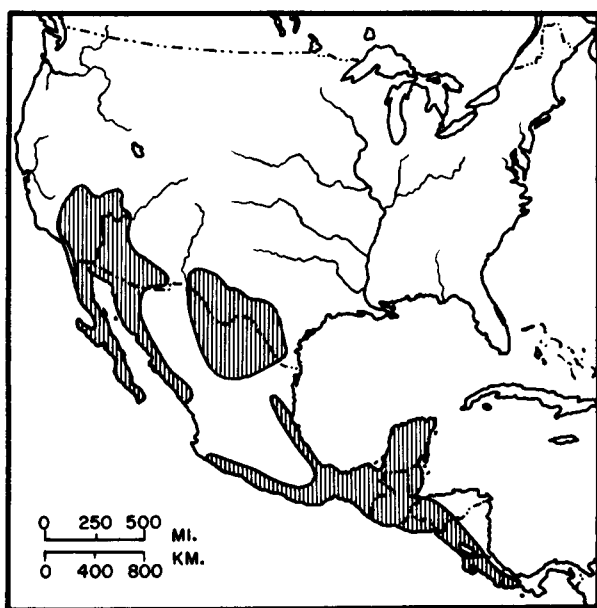
DIXON, JAMES R. 1970. *Coleonyx*.***Coleonyx* Gray  
Banded geckos***Coleonyx* Gray, 1845:162. Type-species, *Coleonyx elegans* Gray, 1845, by monotypy.*Brachydactylus* Peters, 1863:41. Type-species, *Brachydactylus mitratus* Peters, 1863, by monotypy.

• CONTENT. Five species are recognized: *C. brevis*, *C. elegans* (two subspecies), *C. mitratus*, *C. reticulatus*, and *C. variegatus* (eight subspecies).

• DEFINITION. Small to medium-sized (56 to 96 mm snout-vent) eublepharine gekkonid lizards with uniform granular dorsal scales, or with granular scales and a few longitudinal rows of enlarged tubercles. The terminal digital scales are laterally compressed, consisting of two shell-like lateral scales and one pointed dorsal scale, not entirely enclosing the claw. The subdigital lamellae are uniform, imbricate, and form a single row. Ventral scales are flat and imbricate, and the gular scales are uniform in size or only slightly enlarged adjacent to the mental. Femoral pores are absent, but males have preanal pores. Eyelids are present, and the pupil is vertically elliptical.

Premaxillary teeth number 11–14, maxillary teeth 22–37, and mandibular teeth 22–44. The nasal bones are paired, frontal and parietal bones are single, the squamosals are small, and the tabular absent. There is an anterodorsal projection on the prefrontal. The stapes is perforated for passage of the stapedial artery. There are 13 to 18 ossicles in the scleral ring. The clavicles are dilated and perforate, and the interclavicle is cruciform. There are 5–6 cervical, 3 sternal, 1–3 mesosternal, and 10–13 interthoracolumbar ribs; 25–26 presacral, 2–3 sacral, and 4–5 pygal vertebrae. There are no calcified endolymphatic sacs. Paired cloacal bones are present in males.

• DESCRIPTIONS. Detailed descriptions of the southern species include the original description of *mitratus* (Peters, 1863) and notes on Costa Rican *mitratus* by Taylor (1956).



MAP. Shaded area covers the distribution of the genus *Coleonyx*.

The original descriptions of *Coleonyx* and *C. elegans* (Gray, 1845) were brief, but were elaborated by Boulenger (1885). Werner (1912) gave a key to the species of *Coleonyx*, and descriptions of all species. Klauber (1945) gave detailed color notes on young, juveniles, and adults of most species, notes on habitat and ecology, and detailed taxonomic accounts. Kluge (1962) described the osteology of the genus in detail. For references to descriptions of the northern forms see species accounts in this catalogue.

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Photographs of the southern species were given by Alvarez del Toro (1960, *elegans*); Davis and Dixon (1958, *elegans* and *reticulatus*); and Taylor (1956, *mitratus*). Günther (1885–1902 [1893]) also presented figures of *Eublepharis dovi* (= *Coleonyx mitratus*). For references to illustrations of the northern forms see species accounts.

• DISTRIBUTION. The genus ranges from southwestern Utah and southern Nevada southward to the coast of California and the Peninsula of Baja California, eastward to central Texas, and southward through Mexico to Panama. Three species (*C. brevis*, *C. reticulatus*, *C. variegatus*) principally occupy arid and semiarid habitats, whereas two species (*C. elegans*, *C. mitratus*) occur in subtropical and tropical forests.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. Important references are cited in this account and the accounts of the species. Klauber (1945) monographed the genus and summarized the previous literature.

## • KEY TO SPECIES.

1. Dorsum with uniform granular scales ..... 2  
—Dorsum with enlarged tubercles scattered among granular scales ..... 3
2. Preanal pores in males separated medially by one or more small scales, distal end of cloacal spur flat ..... *C. brevis*.  
—Preanal pores in males not separated medially, distal end of cloacal spur pointed ..... *C. variegatus*.
3. Dorsal pattern of adults with bold black bands ..... 4  
—Dorsal pattern of adults reticulated ..... *C. reticulatus*.
4. Scales of claw sheath short, claw conspicuously exposed ..... *C. mitratus*.  
—Scales of claw sheath long, claw hidden or only tip exposed ..... *C. elegans*.

• REMARKS. The five species of *Coleonyx* form two distinct groups based on size and squamation. *Coleonyx elegans*, *C. mitratus*, and *C. reticulatus* are large species, with enlarged tubercles scattered among the dorsal granules; *C. brevis* and *C. variegatus* are small, uniformly granular species (Klauber, 1945; Davis and Dixon, 1958). Taylor (1956) suggested that these groups (*reticulatus* had not been described at the time) might be separated as distinct genera.

• ETYMOLOGY. The name *Coleonyx* is derived from the Greek words *koleos*, "a sheath" and *onyx*, "nail, talon or claw," in reference to the sheathed claws.

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