

ART. 4. STATUS OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN IGUANID LIZARD,
ENYALIUS COERULESCENS COPE

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Cope (1876: 169) in his catalogue of the reptiles collected by Orton on his Amazonian trip lists two specimens of *Enyalius*. One of these, *Enyalius laticeps* (Guichenot), was placed in the new genus *Enyalioides* by Boulenger (1885: 112), who separated this genus from *Enyalius* on the basis of keeled infradigital lamellae and other minor characters. Cope also described the new species *Enyalius coerulescens* from the Orton collection, without, however, giving it a definite type locality other than the Amazon from Santarem to Peru. Since the time of the original description no additional records for the species have appeared in the literature, though on Cope's authority the form has since been cited several times. A revision of the *Enyalius catenatus* group currently in process makes it desirable to determine definitely the assignment of this form.

The original diagnosis of the species reads as follows:

A dentellated nuchal crest, a vertebral band of linear scales; no caudal crest; all subround in section. Head wide, muzzle parabolic, its entire surface including the supraorbital region covered with equal acutely tubercular scales. Three rows intervene between the superciliary rows; occipital scarcely distinct. Nostril pierced in a small round shield; nearer orbit than end of muzzle. Loreal region very short, with ten scales on a vertical line. Supraocular scales eighteen counting to nostril. Labials 11-11, a short series of distinct smooth infralabials. Auricular opening large. Dorsal scales very small, keeled, in transverse rows; abdominal scales larger, in cross series, interrupted on the middle line, keeled. The hind leg and wrist extend to front of orbit.

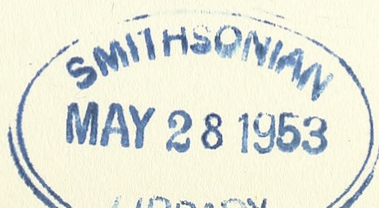
Color black, with numerous indistinct blue bands. Limbs, especially the forearm, and the sides of the neck, dark blue. Lower surfaces white, except throat and chin, which are blackish-blue.

	M.
Total length185
Length to vent072
Length to axilla034
Length to ear018
Length to orbit006

Width at anterior angle of orbit .009; apparently allied to the *E. brazilensis*, Lesson (Voyage Coquille Reptiles, Pl. I, fig. 3), but that species has a dorsal crest of erect scales.

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After Cope's death the Orton collection was transferred to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and Dr. E. R. Dunn has kindly furnished us with information regarding the fate of this material. All of these specimens were at one time sent to Dr. T. Barbour at the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Harvard College, where part of the collection was retained and the remainder returned to the Academy with Barbour's identifications. Here the material was never sorted out and the identifications were lost so that the exact disposition of any specimen from the original collection may no longer be determined with any degree of exactitude.

There are two specimens extant, both of which appear to possess almost equally good claims to the designation of type. These are ANS 11382 and MCZ 12438, both of which are labeled *Enyalius coerulescens* (*caerulescens* in the case of the MCZ specimen*). Catalogue entries for both specimens refer them to the Orton collection, with the locality being indicated as Peru for the MCZ specimen, though it is possible that this may have been added subsequently. It is of interest to note that the ANS specimen is not listed as a type in the Academy's catalogue although this is the case for several other specimens from the Orton collection.

The MCZ specimen is a male with a body length of 13 cm. (the partially missing tail measures another 4 cm.), which would tend to eliminate it from consideration as the type, though both the remnants of the color pattern and the scutellation are in good agreement with the description of the type. The specimen possesses keeled infradigital lamellae, a fringed nuchal crest and two femoral pores.

The ANS specimen is almost totally disintegrated, the jar containing several large pieces, some bones and considerable "soup." The head is crushed and it and part of one front limb are held together by remnants of the integument, which clearly shows the black gular patch mentioned in the typical description. Both hind limbs and the tail are separated and badly crushed, but some of the toes still permit determination of the fact that they possess keeled infradigital lamellae. All other apparent scutellation characters agree with the description. While the specimen presents the impression of having been slightly larger than the measurements given by Cope, its condition makes such impressions inconclusive and for the above reasons it is felt that this is almost certainly the lizard used by Cope for his description.

Since both of these specimens show keeled infradigital lamellae, one of them in addition possessing the femoral pores always absent in *Enyalius*, they certainly belong to the genus *Enyalioides* rather than to *Enyalius*, and the name *coerulescens* must hence be removed from the roster of the latter genus. Unfortunately its exact status within the genus *Enyalioides* cannot

*Boulenger's (1885: 120) incorrect spelling, "*caerulescens*," appears to have been copied by several subsequent authors.

yet be ascertained beyond doubt; and the badly confused record has prevented any more definite statement as to whether Cope believed both of these specimens to be *Enyalius coeruleus*, and (if not) which one formed the basis for his record of *Enyalius laticeps*. Comparison with other specimens of *Enyalioides* indicates that *coeruleus* most closely resembles *E. l. laticeps*, and appears to be a synonym of the latter. Settlement of this point will have to wait for a thorough review of the genus.

We wish to thank the authorities of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Harvard College and the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia for access to the material of their respective collections.

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