

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCIENCE BULLETIN

VOL. XXII.]

APRIL 15, 1935

[No. 9.]

Coleonyx fasciatus, a Neglected Species of Gecko

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IN THE first volume of the catalogue of the lizards in the British Museum, published in 1885, Boulenger described as new a specimen of a gecko which he named *Eublepharis fasciatus*. This specimen was collected by Forrer in Ventanas, Durango, Mexico. The description is brief and probably because of this brevity and resultant lack of distinguishing characters, Stejneger (North American Fauna No. 7, 1893, p. 163) placed the species in the synonymy of *Coleonyx variegatus* (Baird).

Günther (Biol. Cent. Amer., April, 1893, p. 83, pl. 31., fig. A) gives a somewhat better description, together with a good figure of the entire animal, and an enlarged drawing of the head. This latter paper apparently was not seen by Stejneger prior to his synonymizing the two forms.

Van Denburgh (1923) likewise follows Stejneger in placing this form in the synonymy of *C. variegatus*.

In the summer of 1934, at a locality about 15 miles south of Presidio, Sinaloa, Mexico, I collected a male specimen of what appeared to be Boulenger's species. However, to make certain its identity, I sent the specimen to Mr. H. W. Parker of the British Museum, who compared it with the type. He states: "I have compared it with Boulenger's type of *C. fasciatus* and have no hesitation in saying that the two are conspecific. I do not think there can be any question that the type, far from being a juvenile *C. brevis*, is a full-grown female of a distinct species."

Since only this single other specimen (the type) is known, and the descriptions of this brief, I offer the following data on the specimen in my collection (No. 556).

A medium-sized species decorated above with broad black quadrangular blotches separated by narrower cream-white bars which are for the most part confluent with the ventral coloration. Covered above with more or less uniform, minute scales lacking all admixture of tubercles. Labials immaculate; a well-defined white stripe following the canthus from eye to near upper edge of rostral; head uniformly gray-black; upper and lower eyelids cream-white; anal spur subconical, directed backward and upwards, about .88 mm. in length.

Tail covered with flat, smooth, imbricating scales, the annuli scarcely distinguishable, and lacking all tubercular scales. Femoral pores 11, in a broadly angular series; ventral scales larger and imbricating, in about 38 rows; 18 lamellae under fourth toe; six or seven upper labials, and an equal number of lower labials; granules on snout much larger than those on top of head, rostral high, bordered posteriorly by a pair of supranasals which form a very narrow median suture and which separate the rostral from the nasal; a second pair of supranasals border the first pair, and are separated by three small scales.

When compared with its congener, *C. variegatus* (specimen of equal length), from the adjoining state of Sonora, the following differences are in evidence: Rostral larger; nostrils a little more widely separated; suture of the anterior supranasals a half shorter; scales on snout and lores nearly twice as large; head longer, somewhat slenderer, with larger eyes; ear opening nearly twice as large; chin scales bordering mental and lower labial distinctly larger; terminal lamellae on digits, lateral to claw, larger; the lamellae under digits heavier; the whole of foot and hand larger, more robust; scales around the tail nearly or more than twice as large and averaging (10) less in number.

It differs also in having a white stripe from eye to rostral along the canthal region, immaculate labials, and in having the top of head unicolor.

The specimen was obtained late in the afternoon ensconced beneath a pile of small logs in the forest, June 19, 1934. Here the trees (really only overgrown shrubs, usually about 15 to 20 feet high) were thick, and beginning to leaf out, since the rains had begun just a short time previously. Collecting in this locality terminated shortly after the specimen was found, and plans to return there from my station at Mazatlán failed to materialize.

The fauna in this region about Mazatlán and Presidio is quite different from that near Guaymas, which lies on the coast 250 km. to the north. My herpetological collections in the surroundings of the two localities show the following:

	Snakes.	Lizards.	Amphibians.	Chelonia.
Guaymas, species taken.....	15	17	5	2
Mazatlán, species taken.....	7	13	13	1
Species in common to the two localities	2	2	1	1

While the above data proves nothing accurately as to the quantitative differences in the fauna, it makes obvious, however, that the fauna is quite different in the two localities, and it is unlikely that the northern form of the genus *Coleonyx* (*C. variegatus*) occurs at Mazatlán.



Taylor, Edward Harrison. 1935. "Coleonyx fasciatus, a neglected species of gecko." *The University of Kansas science bulletin* 22, 203–205.

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