

A STARTLINGLY TURQUOISE-BLUE GECKO FROM TANGANYIKA

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During a recent collecting trip in Central Tanganyika Territory, Mr. J. G. Williams visited the thick, low-level, rain forest at Kimboza to the south-east of the Uluguru Mountains. While there his attention was attracted to a small gecko by its brilliant coloration. Having shot it without damage, and believing it to be new, he submitted it to me for determination. I take pleasure in naming it:

Lygodactylus picturatus Williamsi subsp. nov.

Type.—Coryndon Memorial Museum, No. 50/898, an adult ♂ from Kimboza Forest at 1,000 feet, Eastern Province, Tanganyika Territory. Collected by J. G. Williams, 23rd November, 1950.

Diagnosis.—In its scalation apparently indistinguishable from typical *picturatus*, occurring in the surrounding savannah region, but strikingly different in coloration, which may be defined as follows:

♂. Above entire upper surfaces brilliant turquoise blue; from nostril through eye to nape is a broad black streak; three or four scales above this a sharply defined black chevron, one or two scales in width, extends back to the nape except for a two-scale-wide interruption above each orbit; flanks finely speckled with black; limbs almost immaculate. Below, chin and throat turquoise blue overlaid by an ill-defined black chevron on the mental and along the base of the labials; four parallel, broad, sometimes coalescing, black streaks extend from chin to neck; forelimbs, chest, belly, and base of tail pale orange, deepening to orange towards the sides and on the hind limbs, rest of tail bluish grey. *p. williamsi*.

♂. Above, head and shoulders bright mustard-yellow, speckled and streaked with brownish black; body, limbs and tail blue-grey, uniform or flecked with brownish black such markings sometimes coalescing to form lines. Below, labials mustard-yellow; throat uniformly deep velvety black, only rarely showing traces of chevrons; breast and belly orange (fading to white on preservation); tail grey. *p. picturatus*.

Description.—Internasal granule 1; nostril surrounded by 2 nasals and a labial; upper labials 7-8 (right-left); lower labials 8-8; postmentals 3; scansors under fourth toe 5; preanal pores 7. Consequently within the range of the typical form as described by me in the "Revision of the African Lizards of the Family Gekkonidae" vide Loveridge, 1947, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 98, pp. 200, 234).

Color.—See diagnosis above.

Size.—Total length of holotype ♂, 75 (34+41) mm., the prehensile tail-tip being intact.

Remarks.—So far as I can recall, not one of the 210 species or races of African geckos displays such brilliant coloring; the vast majority of the Gekkonidae being pro-cryptically colored. For so brilliant a turquoise blue we must turn to the male agamids, skins, or lacer tide among African lizards. The position of this tenth recognizable race of *Lygodactylus picturatus*, appears to be at the very end of the entire genus.