

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SCINCOID LIZARD FROM EAST AFRICA.

BY

LEONHARD STEJNEGER,

Curator of the Department of Reptiles and Batrachians.

***Lygosoma kilimensis*, sp. nov.**

DIAGNOSIS: Limbs pentadactyl, short, distance between them when adpressed to side of body more than length of hind limb, the latter being much less than half as long as its distance from the axilla; distance from snout to fore limbs contained more than twice in the distance between axilla and groin; lower eyelid scaly; ear-opening an oblique slit, much larger than nostril; no supranasals; rostral forming a broad suture with frontonasal; prefrontals small and widely separated; frontal not broader than supraocular region; two frontoparietals; parietals forming a suture behind the interparietal; 24 scales round the body; toes not compressed; fourth toe longer than third; 13 to 15 lamellæ under fourth toe.

HABITAT: Kilima-njaro, East Africa.

Type: U. S. National Museum, No. 16749. Dr. W. L. Abbott coll., 1889.

Description of type specimen.—Body much elongate; limbs very weak; the distance between the end of the snout and the fore limb is contained twice and a half in the distance between axilla and groin; snout very short, obtuse; lower eyelid scaly; rostral wide, low, its posterior outline, as seen from above, straight; nostril pierced in the nasal; no supranasal; frontonasal more than twice as wide as long, forming sutures anteriorly with the rostral and posteriorly with the frontal, the width of each suture being greater than the length of the frontonasal; prefrontals small, widely separated; frontal short, as long as the frontoparietals, in contact with first and second supraoculars; five supraoculars; seven superciliaries; frontoparietals two, each larger than interparietal; parietals forming a suture behind interparietals; two pairs of nuchals; supralabials separated from orbit by a row of small scales, fourth supralabial being directly under the center of the eye; ear-opening narrow, oval, only slightly oblique to line of commissure; 24 smooth subequal scales round middle of body; one pair of somewhat enlarged anals, adjoining scales only slightly larger than rest; digits short, cylindric, terminal scale rather large, vaulted nail-like, nearly concealing the claw;

third finger a trifle larger than fourth, both with five scales above; fourth toe a little longer than third, with thirteen to fifteen smooth lamellæ underneath and seven scales above; third with six scales above; tail thick, long, all the scales subequal; color uniform brown above, pale buff underneath, with dusky longitudinal spots down the centers of the lateral scales, forming more or less continuous grayish lines on the flanks and sides of tail.

Measurements (in millimetres).

Total length (end of tail reproduced) 158	Snout to vent	68
Snout to posterior end of parietals.. 9	Axilla to groin	45
Greatest width of head	Fore limb	10
Snout to fore limb	Hind limb	15



Stejneger, L. 1891. "Description of a new scincoid lizard from East Africa."
Proceedings of the United States National Museum 14(862), 405–406.
<https://doi.org/10.5479/si.00963801.862.405>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/32426>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5479/si.00963801.862.405>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/11486>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.