

## ON A NEW SPECIES OF SPINY-TAILED IGUANA FROM UTILLA ISLAND, HONDURAS.

---

By LEONHARD STEJNEGER,  
*Curator, Division of Reptiles and Batrachians.*

---

SOME time ago Dr. J. E. Jarnigan, United States consul at the port of Utila, sent to the National Zoological Park, in Washington, several specimens of an undescribed species of spiny-tailed Iguana. Two of these died recently, and the adult serves as the type of the following description.

Utila is a small island, only 7 miles long, situated off the coast of Honduras, in the Caribbean Sea. It is located within the 100-fathom line surrounding the mainland.

I take great pleasure in dedicating this new species to Dr. Frank Baker, the distinguished superintendent of the National Zoological Park, it being, so far as I know, the first new species described from specimens having lived in the park.

### CTENOSAURA BAKERI, new species.

*Diagnosis.*—A rather large dewlap hanging from the posterior part of the throat; caudal whorls of spines separated by one and two rows of scales; spines of median caudal crest subequal, much larger than the other caudal spines; upper side of tibia with somewhat enlarged keeled scales; dorsal crest high, composed of about 40 spines, not continuous with caudal crest.

*Type.*—No. 26317, U.S.N.M.

*Habitat.*—Utila Island, Honduras.

*Remarks.*—The present species, in possessing a well-developed pendant dewlap, shows a close relationship to *Ctenosaura palearis*, described by me a few years ago, from Gualan, in Guatemala,<sup>1</sup> and because of this striking peculiarity needs no comparison with any other species of the genus. From *C. palearis* it differs chiefly in the less marked

---

<sup>1</sup> Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XXI, 1899, p. 381.



differentiation of the enlarged upper tibial scales and in the scutellation of the tail. In *C. bakeri* only the fourth to eighth caudal whorls are composed of two scale rings, the others of three, viz, the posterior spinous one and two smaller basal rings, while in *C. palearis* there is only one very small basal ring throughout. In the latter the median spine of this basal ring is also correspondingly small, so that the median caudal crest consists of alternate large and small spines, while in *C. bakeri* the spines of the crest are equal or nearly so. Moreover, in this species the lateral spines are much less developed, being, in fact, smaller than the median series, while the opposite is true of *C. palearis*. There are many more structural differences, notably the smaller size of the head scales of *C. bakeri*, but the characters pointed out above are sufficient to separate the two species. The coloration is also somewhat different, inasmuch as the lateral black bands, though in the specimens of *C. bakeri* before me rather obscure, nevertheless involve the dorsal crest, the spines of which at the crossing of the band are jet black, while in *C. palearis* the crest appears to be uniform pale.

The dewlap of *C. bakeri* is not quite as large as in *C. palearis*. The former species, therefore, in this, as in the scutellation of the tail, fills somewhat the gap between *C. palearis* and the other species of the genus, thus demonstrating the wisdom of not creating a new generic term based upon that character.



Stejneger, Leonhard. 1901. "On a new species of spiny-tailed iguana from Utila island, Honduras." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* 23(1217), 467–468. <https://doi.org/10.5479/si.00963801.1217.467>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/32360>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5479/si.00963801.1217.467>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/26639>

**Holding Institution**

Smithsonian Libraries

**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>.