40. Description of a New Lizard of the genus Chalcides, from the Gambia, living in the Society's Gardens.

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The Society recently received from H.E. Capt. C. H. Armitage, C.M.G., a generous donor to its collection, a number of reptiles from the Gambia. Among these was a Lizard of the genus Chalcides which is evidently undescribed, and for which I propose the name of Chalcides armitagei, after its discoverer.

Chalcides armitagei, sp. n.


From snout to vent 119 millim.; tail 82 mm.

Great variation is to be found in the structure of the Lizards of the genus Chalcides, especially in the proportions of the limbs and body, and in the number of digits, where we find all stages of degeneracy, there being species with five, four, three, or even two fingers or toes. A linear arrangement based solely on the number of the digits would be unnatural, as I have attempted to show in a recent paper*. The shape of the snout, whether conical or wedge-shaped, is of importance in tracing lines of descent; this character being also taken into consideration, the species here described as new cannot be placed in the group Ch. sphenopsiformis, delisii, and sepois, its position being intermediate between Ch. mionecton (with four fingers and toes, and 24 or 26 scales round the body), and Ch. mauritanicus (with two fingers and three toes, and 10 scales round the body).


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