

## REPTILIA: SQUAMATA: PHRYNOSOMATIDAE

*Sceloporus jalapae*

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Flores Villela, O., H.M. Smith, E.A. Liner, and D. Chiszar. 2008. *Sceloporus jalapae*.

***Sceloporus jalapae* Günther**  
**Xalapa Spiny Lizard**

*Sceloporus graciosus*: Cope 1885:36 (part).

*Sceloporus graciosus*: Ferrari-Pérez 1886:193 (nec Yarrow).

*Sceloporus aeneus*: Ferrari-Pérez 1886:193 (nec Wiegmann).

*Sceloporus jalapae* Günther 1890:74. Type-locality, "Jalapa" (now Xalapa), [Veracruz], Mexico". Holotype, The Natural History Museum, London (BMNH) 1946.8.10.31, male (*vide* Günther 1890), collected by Höge, via F.D. Godman, date of collection unknown (not examined by authors).

*Lysotyphlus jalapae*: Larsen and Tanner 1975:18.

• **CONTENT.** No subspecies are currently recognized.

• **DEFINITION.** Maximum SVL ca. 51 mm; dorsum light brown, with a broad dorsolateral light stripe, brighter in females, broken at intervals by a series of about 10 dark transverse streaks associated with paravertebral spots slightly darker than the ground color; a narrower, less conspicuous lateral light line between limbs; gular region lightly streaked and dotted with light blue; males with a lateral abdominal, dark-edged blue semeion on each side, widely separated; head scales more or less normal except for absence of postrostrals; internasals and nasals contacting rostrals; a single row of large supraoculars; dorsal scales 50–66, mean 55.6, keeled, mucronate, very weakly denticulate; lateral scales similar to dorsals, but smaller, larger than ventrals; latter notched, smooth except weakly keeled on posterior part of abdomen in some; femoral pores 17–21 on each side, separated by 0–3 scales; a pair of enlarged postanals in males.

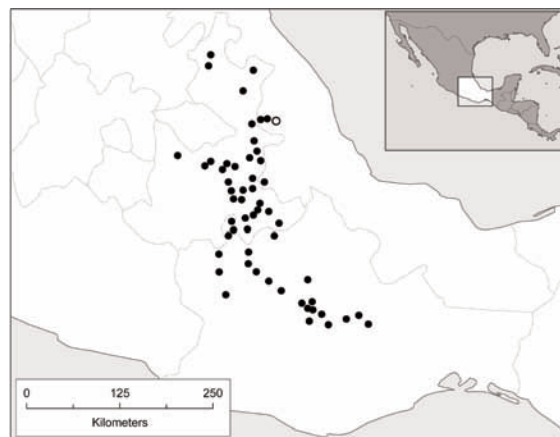
• **DIAGNOSIS.** This species is one of the most distinctive of the genus, characterized by the combination of absence of postrostrals and postfemoral pockets, and presence of 17–21 femoral pores on each side. Its closest relative is *S. ochoterenae*, with which it forms a distinct species group as first noted by Thomas and Dixon (1976), and confirmed by Cole (1978) and Wiens and Reeder (1997). The two species share the absence of postrostrals and postfemoral pockets, but differ most conspicuously in number of femoral pores (17 or more in *S. jalapae*, fewer than 17 in *S. ochoterenae*) and in number of dorsals (50–66 vs 38–46 from interparietal to posterior margin of thighs). There is less sexual dimorphism in dorsal pattern in *S. jalapae*, and the preanals are not keeled in females. The shoulder dark spots are less evident in *S. jalapae*, and blue streaks and dots are present on the dorsum (absent in *S. ochoterenae*). Considering distribution as a character, their ranges



**FIGURE 1.** *Sceloporus jalapae* from Santa María Ixcatlán, Oaxaca, México. Photograph courtesy of Luis Canseco Márquez.

are allopatric, *S. jalapae* on Atlantic slopes, *S. ochoterenae* on Pacific slopes, and separated by some 100 km between the Izúcar de Matamoros (*S. ochoterenae*) and Zapotitlán Salinas (*S. jalapae*) regions in Puebla. The altitude range of *S. jalapae* (1000–2134 m) does not extend as low as in *S. ochoterenae* (520–2134 m), and that of the latter usually (1920 m the maximum known except for one record at 2134 m) does not extend as high as in the former.

• **DESCRIPTIONS.** Significant descriptions are given in Boulenger (1890, 1897), Günther (1890), Köhler and Heimes (2002), and Smith (1934a, 1937, 1939).



**Map.** Dots indicate localities of occurrence of *S. jalapae*. The circle indicates the type-locality.

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Color photographs appear in Köhler and Heimes (2002) and Canseco Márquez and Gutiérrez Mayén (2006). Head scales are illustrated in Smith (1934b, 1939). Cole (1978) illustrated the karyotype. A range map occurs in Smith (2001). Wiens and Reeder (1997) provide black-and-white drawings of skeletal elements, head scalation, and posterior lingual dentary teeth.

• **DISTRIBUTION.** A terrestrial species occurring southward from extreme northern Puebla through the eastern half of the state and the edge of adjacent Veracruz to central Oaxaca, in semiarid habitats to

evergreen forests. The record for Lake El Chico in Olson et al. (1987) is based on *S. megalepidurus*.

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None. The name was mentioned by Wellstead (1982) in connection with fossils of other species of *Sceloporus* in Nebraska.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** Topics are as follows: **anatomy** (Burststein et al. 1974; Larsen and Tanner 1974; Olson et al. 1986, 1987), **behavior** (Bussjaeger 1971; Carpenter 1978a,b, 1986; Carpenter and Ferguson 1977; Martins 1993; Martins et al. 2004; Purdue and Carpenter 1972a,b; Weins 1998), **conservation and ecology** (Bojórquez-Tapia et al. 1995; Canseco-Márquez 1996; Pelcastre Villafuerte 1991; Pelcastre Villafuerte and Flores Villela 1991; Woolrich Piña et al. 2005), **karyology** (Cole 1978; Gilboa 1974; Guillette et al. 1980; Hall 1971, 1973; Méndez-de la Cruz et al. 1998; Mink and Sites 1996), **phylogeny and systematics** (Benabib et al. 1997; Flores-Villela et al. 2000; Harmon et al. 2003; Reeder and Wiens 1996; Sites et al. 1992; Smith 1934b; Warheit et al. 1999; Wiens 1993, 1999, 2000; Wiens and Reeder 1997; Wills 1977), **reproduction** (Ramírez-Bautista 2003; Ramírez-Bautista et al. 2005). The species appears in the following **checklists, keys and similar compendia**: Bell et al. 2003; Canseco Márquez and Gutiérrez Mayén 2006; Casas Andreu et al. 1996, 2004; Eliosa León and Yañez Gómez 1994; Flores-Villela 1993; Flores-Villela and Gérez 1988, 1994; Flores-Villela et al. 1991, 1995; Frank and Ramus 1995; Gonzales Romero et al. 1991; Guillette and Smith 1985; Heimes 1993; Hutchins et al. 2003; Lara-Góngora 1986; Liner 1994, 2007; Maslin and Walker 1973; Ramírez Bautista et al. 1993; Smith 1934a, 1936, 1991; E.N. Smith 2001; Smith and Smith 1976, 1993; Smith and Taylor 1950a,b; Smith et al. 2000; and Thomas and Dixon 1976).

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The name is the possessive form of Jalapa, as the type-locality was then known (now Xalapa).

• **REMARKS.** This species, like *S. ochoterenae*, was mis-identified as *S. aeneus*, *S. graciosus* or *S. graciosus* from 1885 (Cope) to as late as 1897 (Boulenger), even though it was recognized as distinct in 1890. Hatchlings, 18 mm SVL, were seen in mid-July at 12.8 km (8 mi) SE Esperanza, Puebla.

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