

REPTILIA: SQUAMATA: SAURIA: TEIIDAE

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Sproston, A.L., R. Powell, and J.S. Parmerlee, Jr. 1998. *Ameiva leberi*.

Ameiva leberi Schwartz and Klinikowski

Ameiva chrysolema leberi Schwartz and Klinikowski 1966:459. Type locality, "5 km E Pedernales, Pedernales Province, República Dominicana." Holotype, Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) 77236, one of a series taken 25 June 1964 by David C. Leber and Richard Thomas (not examined by authors).

Ameiva leberi: Schwartz and Thomas 1975:59. First use of present combination.

- **CONTENT.** No subspecies are recognized.
- **DEFINITION.** *Ameiva leberi* is a large teiid with maximum male SVL to 129 mm (unpubl. data). Dorsal caudal scales are keeled and straight, ventrals are in 10 transverse rows and 34–43 longitudinal rows, subdigital scales (combined count for both 4th toes) number 78–96, total femoral pores 35–45, and the 15th caudal verticil has 34–43 scales. The dorsum is rusty to reddish brown and is completely patternless (distinctive lateral fields are absent). Sides and lateralmost ventral scales are blue. The venter is gray with small amounts of red to orange-red, or completely brick-red or deep orange-red. Lores and cheeks are unspotted and pinkish gray. The throat is orange with a black gular band, that at times extends onto the chest and undersides of the arms (Schwartz and Henderson 1991).

- **DIAGNOSIS.** *Ameiva leberi* may be distinguished from all other sympatric *Ameiva* (*A. chrysolema ficta*, *A. lineolata*, and *A. taeniura*) by the complete absence of a dorsal pattern and lateral fields.

- **DESCRIPTIONS.** In addition to the original by Schwartz and Klinikowski (1966), a description may be found in Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

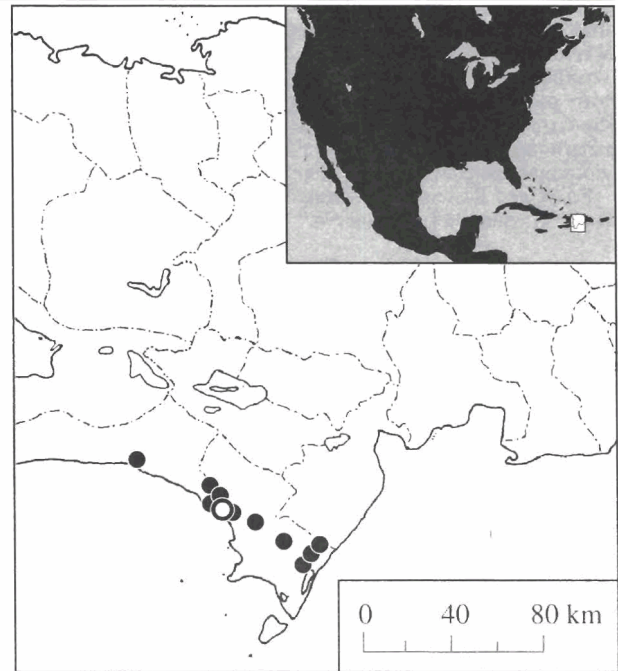
- **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Line drawings illustrating the lack of a dorsal pattern are in Schwartz and Klinikowski (1966).

- **DISTRIBUTION.** A Hispaniolan South Island endemic (Schwartz 1980, Powell et al. 1998), the species is distributed from the vicinity of Saltrou, Département du Sud-Est, Haiti, east across the Península de Barahona, República Dominicana, to the vicinity of Oviedo, Provincia de Pedernales. *Ameiva leberi* is a xerophile occurring in *Acacia* scrub or ravines with moderately dense xeric broadleaf forests (Schwartz and Henderson 1991), although fieldwork in 1995 indicated that these lizards rarely venture far from clearings. The range has been illustrated in Schwartz and Klinikowski (1966) and Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

- **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

- **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** Schwartz (1973) discussed overlapping ranges of this species with other Hispaniolan *Ameiva*. SEA/DVS (1990) provided an index to habitat in the Dominican Republic. Schell et al. (1993) distinguished *A. leberi* from *A. chrysolema*. Sproston et al. (1999) studied ecological attributes of sympatric *A. leberi*, *A. chrysolema ficta*, and *A. taeniura vulcanalis*. The species is included in checklists, guides, and keys by MacLean et al. (1977), Henderson and Schwartz (1984), Henderson et al. (1984), Schwartz and Henderson (1985, 1988), and Powell et al. (1996).

- **ETYMOLOGY.** The name *leberi* is a patronym honoring David C. Leber, who accompanied Schwartz on a number of field trips to the West Indies and who helped collect the holotype.



MAP. Range of *Ameiva leberi* (modified from Schwartz and Henderson 1991). The circle marks the type locality, dots indicate other records.

- **COMMENT.** Schwartz and Klinikowski (1966) originally described *Ameiva leberi* as a subspecies of *A. chrysolema*, distinguishable from other populations in the complex by a combination of size, modal meristic differences, and the complete lack



FIGURE 1. Dorsal patterns of adult male *Ameiva* collected 4.5 km NW Oviedo, Provincia de Pedernales, República Dominicana: *A. chrysolema ficta* (top individual, note the patterned dorsum), *A. leberi* (next two individuals, note patternless dorsum), and *A. taeniura vulcanalis* (bottom two individuals, note the dark lateral bars).



FIGURE 2. Ventral patterns of the same adult male *Ameiva* in Fig. 1.

of a dorsal pattern and a distinctive lateral field. In light of data presented by Sproston et al. (1999) indicating that *A. chrysolema ficta* and *A. leberi* are ecologically indistinguishable, that various degrees of pattern intensity occur in *A. chrysolema ficta*, and the fact that other subspecies of *A. chrysolema*, *A. c. richardthomasi* and *A. c. boekeri*, include both patterned and unpatterned morphs (Schwartz and Klinikowski 1966), the possibility that *A. leberi* represents a pattern morph of *A. chrysolema ficta* cannot be ruled out until additional research has been completed (Sproston et al. 1999).

Frank and Ramus (1995) suggested the use of the common name "Hispaniola [*sic*] Ameiva."

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Primary editor for this account, Andrew H. Price.

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