

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Smith, G.R., J.A. Lemos-Espinal, and R.E. Ballinger. 2000. *Xenosaurus platyceps*.

***Xenosaurus platyceps* King and Thompson**  
Flathead Knob-scaled Lizard

*Xenosaurus newmanorum*: Martin 1955:174 (part).

*Xenosaurus platyceps* King and Thompson 1968:113. Type locality, "15.4 mi SSW Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico." Holotype, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ) 126048, an adult male, collected 16 August 1965 by F.G. Thompson (not examined by authors).

• **CONTENT.** The species is monotypic.

• **DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS.** *Xenosaurus platyceps* is a medium-sized species (SVL to about 115 mm), stocky, and with a broad, triangular, flat head. This species differs from congeners in lacking enlarged scales on the canthus temporalis, having a low number of superciliaries (8–10), transverse ventral scale rows between axillary and groin 40–42, a dark w-shaped nape blotch truncate posteriorly, and prominently conical dorsal scales separated by smaller granules that give the dorsum a distinctly knobby appearance. The eye is faint orange in life.

• **DESCRIPTIONS.** A detailed description is given by King and Thompson (1968).

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Smith and Iverson (1993) included photographs of two males showing color pattern and large tubercles and of a female's immaculate venter. King and Thompson (1968) provided a drawing of the dorsal color pattern of the holotype and a diagram showing ventral caudal markings. Harvey (1993) provided scanning electron micrographs of scale structure.

• **DISTRIBUTION.** This species is known from the state of Tamaulipas southwest of Ciudad Victoria and in the vicinity of Jaumave, La Joya de Salas, and La Union. Typical habitat consists of dry oak and tropical deciduous forests (Martin 1958)

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

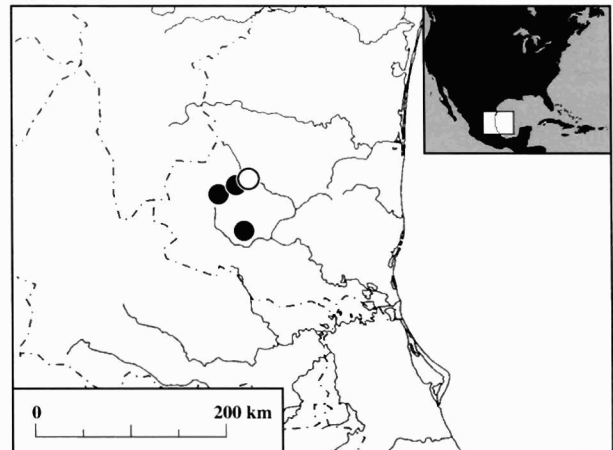
• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** Ballinger et al. (in press) addressed reproduction. Descriptions of natural history (habitat, temperature, and activity) are in Martin (1958) and Lemos-Espinal et al. (1997). Cooper et al. (1998) conducted a study of prey chemical discrimination. Morphology of the genitalia was described by Böhme (1988). The species occurs in checklists by Flores-Villela (1993), Liner (1994), and Wermuth (1969).

• **REMARK.** Martin (1955, 1958) reported this species in Tamaulipas as *X. newmanorum* prior to the description of *X. platyceps*.

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The name *platyceps* (Greek, "flat head") refers to the flattened head in this species.

## LITERATURE CITED

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**MAP.** Distribution of *Xenosaurus platyceps*; the circle indicates the type locality, dots mark other records.



**FIGURE.** Adult *Xenosaurus platyceps* from Ejido Altas Cumbres, at km 155 on HW 101 from Jaumave to Cd. Victoria, Tamaulipas.

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