# **Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.**

LEE, JULIAN C. 1976. Xantusia henshawi.

## Xantusia henshawi Stejneger Granite night lizard

- Xantusia henshawi Stejneger, 1893:467. Type-locality, "Witch Creek, San Diego County, California." Holotype, U. S. Nat. Mus. 20339, collected in May 1893 by H. W. Henshaw (Holotype not seen by author).
- Zablepsis henshavii: Cope, 1895a:758. See NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY.
- Xantusia picta Cope, 1895c:859. Type-locality, "Tejon Pass, California," probably in error, corrected by Van Denburgh (1916:14) to Poway, San Diego County, California. Holotype, Acad. Natur. Sci. Philadelphia 12881 (Malnate, 1971), probably collected by Dr. Frank E. Blaisdell (see NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY).

• CONTENT. Two subspecies are recognized: henshawi and bolsonae.

• DEFINITION. A medium-sized xantusiid (males reach 65 mm., females 70 mm. snout-vent length), with the head and body dorsoventrally flattened. The venter bears 14 longitudinal rows of rectangular scales, and the pupil is vertically elliptical. Femoral pores are present in both sexes, but are rudimentary in females.

• DESCRIPTIONS. The original description was brief, for Stejneger intended to publish subsequently a full description. Van Denburgh (1895) published the first detailed description, which he later repeated (Van Denburgh, 1922). Other general descriptions are those of Smith (1946), Stebbins (1954, 1966), and Lee (1975).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Black and white drawings were presented by Stebbins (1954, 1966). Black and white photographs were given by Van Denburgh (1922), Wright and Wright (1931), Smith (1946), Shaw (1950), Webb (1970), and Lee (1975). Atsatt (1939) gave photographs illustrating diurnal and nocturnal color phases. Leviton (1971), and Gans (1975) published color photographs. Cope (1900), and Lee (1975) presented line drawings of scutellation and femoral pores, respectively. Savage (1963) illustrated the pectoral girdle. Bezy (1972) presented a photograph of the chromosomes (2n = 40). Stewart and Daniel (1975) published an electron micrograph of the parietal scale.

• DISTRIBUTION. Xantusia henshawi occupies arid and subarid habitats on both coastal and desert slopes of the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains, Riverside County, California, through the Laguna Mountains, San Diego County, California, into the San Pedro Martir Mountains, Baja California del Norte, Mexico. The northernmost locality is 1.6 km. S Cabazon, Riverside County, California (Glaser, 1970), and the southernmost is Arroyo Encantada, Baja California (California Acad. Sci. 57294–57296). The altitudinal range is from 130 to 2,250 m. A disjunct population (bolsonae) occurs in eastern Durango, Mexico (Webb, 1970). Local distribution is governed in part by the presence of suitable rock crevices formed by the weathering of granitic (henshawi) or andesitic (bolsonae) boulders. Webb (1970) published photographs of the habitat of bolsonae, and Lee (1975) included photographs of typical henshawi habitat.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. The most recent comprehensive work is that of Lee (1975) who discussed the ecology of this species and summarized distributional data. Much of the earlier literature was reviewed by Van Denburgh (1922), and Smith (1946). Mautz and Case (1974) reported on activity and oxygen consumption cycles, and Lee (1974) studied diel activity. Bezy (1972) published on karyology, Guttman (1971) presented electrophoretic data on hemoglobins, and Webb (1970) summarized variation in scutellation. Brattstrom (1965) reported on thermal biology. Brattstrom (1952) studied food habits, and Brattstrom (1951) and Shaw (1949) published information on reproduction. Klauber (1926, 1931, 1939) presented field observations and distributional data, and additional locality records were published by Murray (1955), and Glaser (1970). Atsatt (1925) published observations on captive lizards, and on color change (Atsatt, 1939).

• NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY. Cope (1895a) proposed Zablepsis as a monotypic genus for Xantusia henshawi Stejneger. Van Denburgh (1895) questioned this arrangement, and subXANTUSIA HENSHAWI

the synonymy of X. henshawi Stejneger. Cope (1895b) described, but failed to name a supposedly new species of Xantusia. In a later publication (Cope, 1895c) he corrected the oversight, and named Xantusia picta. Van Denburgh (1916) synonymized picta with X. henshawi, and traced the complicated history of the type-specimen.

• ETYMOLOGY. The specific epithet honors H. W. Henshaw. According to Webb (1970), "The name *bolsonae* refers to the geographic position of this race in a southern outlier of the Bolson de Mapimi."

### 1. Xantusia henshawi henshawi Stejneger

Xantusia henshawi Stejneger, 1893:467. See species account. Xantusia henshawi henshawi: Webb, 1970:2. First use of trinomial.

• DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. The mean snout-vent length in males is 56 mm., and in females 62 mm. Distinct postorbital stripes are usually absent, and the dorsal color pattern undergoes daily rhythmic changes: by day the lizards are dark gray or black with fine yellowish reticulations, and at night the yellowish network expands, and the lizards become pale gray with smaller dark spots. Xantusia h. henshawi also differs from X. h. bolsonae in posessing more longitudinal rows of dorsal granules (mean 63), usually six supralabials, more femoral pores (mean 11), a wider head in relation to body length, and in apparently attaining larger size.

### 2. Xantusia henshawi bolsonae Webb

Xantusia henshawi bolsonae Webb, 1970:1. Type-locality, "6-6.5 road miles NE Pedriceña on Mexican Highway 40, at an elevation of 4400 feet, Durango, Mexico." Holotype, Los Angeles County Mus. Natur. Hist. 55956, collected 24-25



MAP. Solid circle and locality 2 (inset map) indicate typelocalities. Question marks indicate doubtful distributional limits.

August, 1969 by Robert G. Webb and Robert M. Kinniburgh (holotype not seen by author).

• DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. The maximum snout-vent length among the 10 known specimens is 57 mm. Distinct postorbital stripes are invariably present, and the dorsal pattern consists of relatively small, irregular dark blotches. Xantusia h. bolsonae also differs from X. h. henshawi in possessing fewer longitudinal rows of dorsal granules (mean 50), usually seven supralabials, fewer femoral pores (mean seven), and a relatively narrow head.

• REMARKS. Xantusia henshawi bolsonae is known only from the type-locality. Webb (1970) discussed the relationships of the two subspecies.

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