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Smith, H.M., F. Mendoza-Quijano, E.A. Liner, and D. Chiszar. 2006. *Sceloporus halli.*

Sceloporus halli Dasmann and Smith
Hall's Cursorial Spiny Lizard

Sceloporus consobrinus: Boulenger 1885:230 (part).
Sceloporus megalepidurus halli Dasmann and Smith 1974:231. Type-locality "San José Lachiguiri, Oaxaca, Mexico". Holotype, University of Colorado Museum (UCM 41137), adult male, collected by Thomas MacDougall in October, 1967.
Sceloporus pictus halli: Dasmann and Smith 1974: 234.
Sceloporus subpictus: Smith 1987:xxxi (*nec* Lynch and Smith 1965).
Sceloporus megalepidurus: Casas Andreu et al. 1995:31 (*nec* Smith 1935).
Sceloporus halli: Wiens and Reeder 1997:39. First use of present combination.

• **CONTENT**. No subspecies have been proposed.

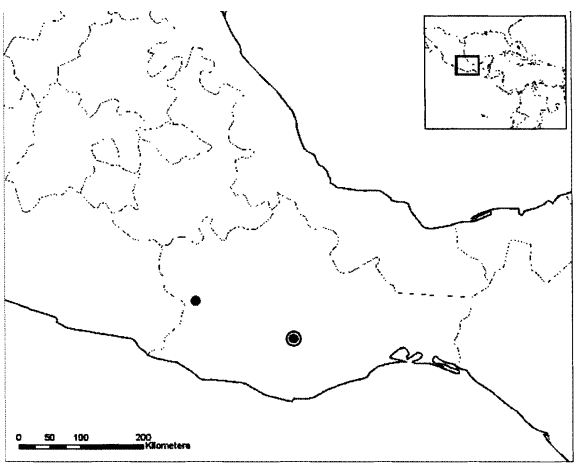
• **DEFINITION**. A small, basically terrestrial, xerophytic species; maximum known SVL 47 mm. Dorsals 46, femoral pores 13–18 on each side, the two series separated by a minimum of 4–5 scales; two pairs of large internasals between median frontonasal and the four postrostrals; a single canthal; one row of enlarged supraoculars; ventrals notched; basal subcaudals smooth; dorsal surface brownish gray; a broad, dark brown lateral stripe from eye and above ear to groin, covering 3–4 scale rows on trunk, bordered dorsally by a light line separated from its mate by 10 scale rows; a large black spot between arm insertion and lateral nuchal pocket, bordered dorsally by a broad light streak that separates it from the lateral dark line and curves posteriorly toward the axilla, at the upper edge of which there is a black spot; posterior surface of thigh irregularly banded; dim, narrow dark bands on dorsal surface of tail; both males and females lacking abdominal and gular semeions. Presumably viviparous (as are other members of its species group).

• **DIAGNOSIS**. The combination of small body size (maximum 47 mm SVL), dorsal scale count (46), notched ventrals, oblique rows of lateral scales, large supraoculars, four postrostrals, single canthal, absence of postfemoral dermal pockets and a horizontal dark bar on rear of thigh, femoral pores 13–18 on a side, the two series separated by 4 scales, pattern, and absence of abdominal and gular semeions in males, readily identify this species. It resembles the more northern *S. megalepidurus*, lacking abdominal semeions in males, but that species has more dorsals (52–63). The more southern and western *S. pictus* is also very similar to *S. halli*, but males have well-developed semeions, and the number of dorsals is usually higher (46–54). The closest known locality of the group to the range of *S. halli* is of *S. pictus* at 2 mi W Yanhuitlán, 8300 ft., Oaxaca (Smith 1992). Of possibly sympatric species, perhaps the most easily confused with *S. halli* is the arboreal *S. subpictus*. The former differs most prominently from the latter in having more dorsals (46 vs. 33–36), two pairs of large internasals (vs. 1), no semeions in males (vs. present), and rear surface of thigh reticulated (vs. banded).

• **DESCRIPTIONS**. The most complete description is in Dasmann and Smith (1974), but partial descriptions occur in Köhler and Heimes (2000) and Smith et al. (2000).

• **ILLUSTRATIONS**. Black-and-white photographs of the head scales and body of the holotype are in Dasmann and Smith (1974).

• **DISTRIBUTION**. Only two specimens are known, one each from San José Lachiguiri and, supposedly, Putla, both in the headwaters of the Río Verde, Pacific slopes of Oaxaca. However, possibly Putla was a shipping point, not the collecting site. The specimen was obtained by a professional collector, Boucard, some time before 1885, when it was first reported by Boulenger. In recent years the N-S highway through Putla was improved to such an extent that numerous collectors have traveled it, without finding more specimens, although the somewhat similar species *S. subpictus* is common. The latter species is probably an associate of *S. halli* elsewhere, however, for Köhler and Heimes (2002) recorded it in the Sierra de Miahuatlán, only some 29 airline km from the type-locality.



Map. The circled dot indicates the type-locality, and the solid dot represents the only other known locality. Map courtesy of Blake Matejowski.

• **FOSSIL RECORD**. None.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE**. The following citations other then those appearing elsewhere in this review: **distribution and zoogeography**: Casas-Andreu et al. 1995 (under the name *S. megalepidurus*), Flores-Villela 1993, and Flores-Villela and Gérez

1988, 1994; **phylogeny and systematics**: Sites et al. 1992, Wiens 1999, and Wiens and Reeder 1997; **checklists and similar compendia**: Bell et al. 2003, Flores-Villela and Canseco-Márquez 2004, Liner 1994, Smith and Smith 1976, 1993, and Sokolov 1988.

• **ETYMOLOGY**. The species is named for William P. Hall, friend and collaborator, for his seminal studies on the phylogeny of the species of *Sceloporus* and related genera.

• **REMARKS**. This is one of the very few species of *Sceloporus* in which semeions are absent in both males and females (Wiens 1999). The allocation (Smith 1987) to *S. subpictus* of Boulenger's (1885, 1897) and of Günther's (1890) *Sceloporus consobrinus* and *S. gratiosus* respectively from Putla, Oaxaca, was in error; the former is *S. halli*, the latter *S. jalapae* (Smith et al. 2000). The report by Smith (1992, 7.5 mi E Tamazulapan) is an error due to locality confusion; it is *S. pictus*.

FMQ and Gunther Köhler observed several lizards of the species in 2003 in agave plants near the type-locality, where they were exceedingly wary and defied capture.

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