

REPTILIA: SQUAMATA: XENOSAURIDAE

XENOSAURUS RECTOCOLLARIS

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

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

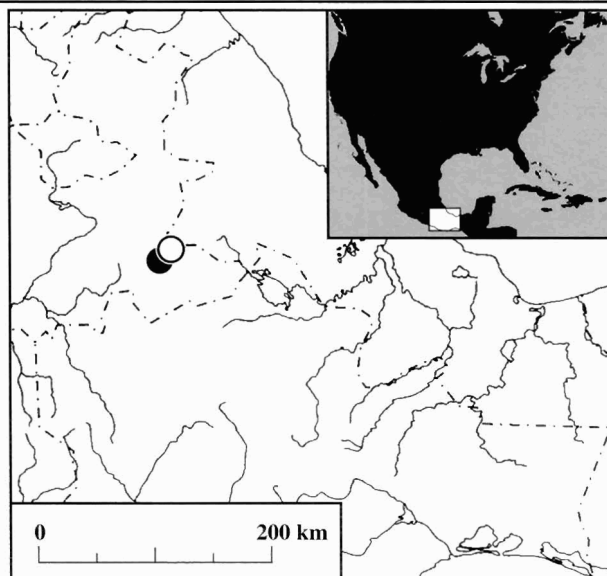
Xenosaurus rectocollaris Smith and Iverson
Pallid Knob-scaled Lizard

Xenosaurus rectocollaris Smith and Iverson 1993:55. Type locality, "2.5 km (1.5 mi.) SW Veracruz/Puebla stateline, Hy. 150 (8 km (4.9 mi.) E Chapulco), Puebla, Mexico, about 2134 m (7000 ft.)." Holotype, University of Florida (UF) 51438, an adult male, collected 3 May 1981 by J.B. Iverson, T. Leitheuser, R. Magill, P.A. Meylan, P. Moler, and C.R. Smith (not examined by authors).

- **CONTENT.** The species is monotypic.
- **DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS.** *Xenosaurus rectocollaris* is the smallest species in the genus, with a maximum SVL of 108 mm, and adults generally have SVL of 100 mm or less. This species is distinguished by the shape and orientation of the dorsal nuchal collar being straight across the middle of the neck rather than v- or w-shaped as in congeners. The ground color is whitish between the dorsal dark bands, and the venter and sides are immaculate. A pair of squarish dark spots occur on either side of a vertebral light streak just behind the head and anterior to the nuchal collar. The iris is yellowish orange. The postrostral is bulbous, large, and wider than long. The maximum transverse venter scales in a row is 25–29. Tubercles in paravertebral rows are elongate, flat, and slightly larger than lateral tubercles and separated antero-posteriorly by one or two rows of granules.
- **DESCRIPTIONS.** The original description (Smith and Iverson 1993) is the only detailed account available.
- **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Smith and Iverson (1993) provided two black-and-white photographs (full body and anterior third) of a female paratype.
- **DISTRIBUTION.** *Xenosaurus rectocollaris* is known only from the vicinity of the type locality.
- **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.
- **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** Lemos-Espinal et al. (1996) described aspects of the natural history including body size, body mass, body temperature in nature, and habitat. Liner (1994) included the species in his checklist.
- **ETYMOLOGY.** The name *rectocollaris* (Latin, straight collar) refers to the straight transverse collar of this species compared to the v- or w-shaped collars of other species.
- **COMMENT.** One of us (Lemos-Espinal) has searched extensively in the vicinity of the type locality (~10 km radius) without locating additional populations of this species, although extensive areas of habitat exist at greater distances and might be expected to yield specimens.

LITERATURE CITED

Lemos-Espinal, J., G.R. Smith, and R.E. Ballinger. 1996. Natural history of the Mexican Knob-scaled Lizard, *Xenosaurus rectocollaris*. Herpetol. Nat. Hist. 4:151-153.



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



FIGURE. Adult *Xenosaurus rectocollaris* from 2.4 km SW of the Veracruz/Puebla state line on HW 150, Puebla. Note the straight banded dorsal pattern characteristic of this species.

Liner, E.A. 1994. Scientific and common names for the amphibians and reptiles of Mexico in English and Spanish. SSAR Herpetol. Circ. (23):v + 113 p.

Smith, H.M. and J.B. Iverson. 1993. A new species of Knob-scale Lizard (Reptilia: Xenosauridae) from Mexico. Bull. Maryland Herpetol. Soc. 29:51-66.

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