

PROCEEDINGS  
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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF GECKO  
FROM COCOS ISLAND.

BY LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

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Professor P. Biolley, naturalist of the Museo Nacional, San José, Costa Rica, visited Cocos Island, off the western coast of Costa Rica, in 1902, and has sent me specimens of two species of lizards for identification. One is the *Anolis townsendi* described by me recently (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., XXXVI, No. 6, p. 163, Nov., 1900) from the same island. The other is a new gecko of the genus *Sphærodactylus* which has its center of distribution in the West Indies but of which several species are also known from Central America and northern South America.

*Sphærodactylus pacificus*, sp. nov.

*Diagnosis*.—Dorsal scales very small, juxtaposed, keeled; ear-opening same size as digital disc; large supranasals separated by two scales, a third median scale anterior to them in the posterior cleft of rostral; scales on top of head keeled.

*Type*.—U. S. National Museum, No. 31057; Cocos Island; Prof. Biolley, collector.

*Habitat*.—Cocos Island, Pacific Ocean off the west coast of Costa Rica.

*Description of type specimen*.—Adult; U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 31057.

Snout moderately pointed, longer than the distance between the eye and the ear-opening, about once and two-thirds the diameter of the eye; ear-opening small, not larger than the discs of the fingers, pear-shaped, horizontal; rostral moderately large with a cleft in the posterior margin, in which is a small median scale; nostril between rostral, first supralabial, a rather large supranasal, and a small postnasal: supranasals separated by two flat hexagonal scales on a line behind the rostral and the small median scale; four large supralabials to below the center of the eye, followed by two small ones, first very long; three large lower labials corresponding to the four large supralabials, followed by two smaller ones, first being as long as the first two supralabials combined; mental large, truncate posteriorly; behind the mental and adjoining the lower labials, large flat scales decreasing in size posteriorly and passing gradually into the granules of the throat; upper surfaces covered with small juxtaposed, granular scales slightly smaller than those on the flanks and keeled, those on the occiput being exceedingly small; the scales on the frontal region somewhat elongate, those on the snout considerably larger, irregularly polygonal, flat but distinctly keeled; a pointed horn-like scale on the superciliary edge a little anterior to the center of the eye; ventral scales rather large, imbricate; tail cylindrical, tapering, covered above with irregular flat scales somewhat smaller than the ventrals, with scarcely any indication of verticels; tail below with a median series of dilated shields except at base which is covered by large flat imbricate scales.

Color (in alcohol) brownish; a pale band extending from the nostril through the upper part of the eye and backwards along the side of the neck communicating with that of the other side in two places across the upper neck; this band can be traced as a very irregular series of pale marblings along the sides of the body; a fairly well-defined dusky band borders this pale one below and across the upper neck, and is in turn bordered below by a pale line on the temples; top of head with ill-defined longitudinal pale marblings the continuation of which may be traced as an irregular pale median dorsal band; tail similarly colored; underside pale, indistinctly mottled with darker brownish.

*Dimensions* (in millimeters).—Type: total length, 82; snout to ear-opening, 11; width of head, 6.5; snout to vent, 47; vent to tip of tail, 35; fore limb, 14; hind limb, 18.

*Variation*.—The four additional specimens sent (U. S. N. M. 31058-61) agree in structural characters very well with the above, except that in none of them is the underside of the tail covered with enlarged cross plates. In No. 31061 the tail is also somewhat longer than the distance from snout to vent. The coloration is also essentially alike, except that in 31059 the longitudinal bands are better defined and more regular, especially on the posterior portion of the body; the underside in all is uniformly pale.

*Remarks*.—This species seems to be most nearly related to *Sphaerodactylus lineolatus* from Central America, from which it differs, among other things, in having the upper head scales keeled.