

TABLE 1. THE HATCHING SIZE OF *Elaphe moellendorffi*.

Egg number	Length (cm)	Weight (g)
1	41.6	19.7
2	42.9	17.4
3	45.4	19.6
4	43.3	18.6
5	46.4	19.6

recorded breeding and hatching of *Elaphe moellendorffi* in captivity.

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EUROPEAN LIZARDS ESTABLISHED ON LONG ISLAND.—During the summer of 1972, approximately 50 lacertid lizards (*Lacerta sicula*) were captured by local children in West Hempstead, Long Island and sold to a nearby pet center. Pet center employees revealed that the lizards had apparently escaped six years ago when a carton was damaged and a number of individuals fled into surrounding vegetation. Exploration of the area during June and July resulted in numerous sightings and capture of 11 specimens, including 5 juveniles suggesting that the lizards were breeding.

Lizards were found in heaviest concentrations around wood and trash piles where vegetation was abundant. Occasionally they were sighted crossing pavement or clinging to brick and concrete walls, however never far from plant cover. Although areas occupied by the lizards are separated by streets and parking lots, the animals appear to be extending their range. A major highway (Hempstead Turnpike) seems to have limited the spread of the population to a semi-circular pattern having a radius of approximately 0.4 km from the apparent point of escape.

During the spring and summer of 1973, areas known to be inhabited by the lizards were kept under observation in an attempt to gather data confirming establishment and range of the

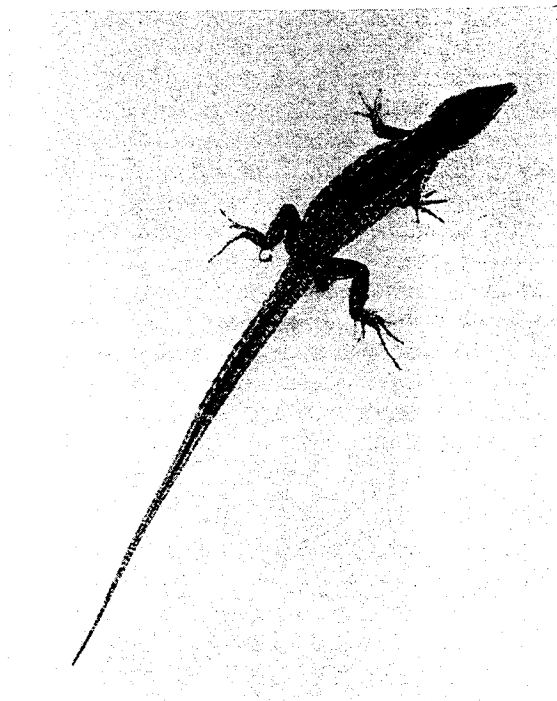


Fig. 1. Adult male *Lacerta sicula* from Long Island colony.

species. Evidence of lizard activity appeared as early as April when several individuals were sighted sunning on woodpiles. The number of sightings increased as the summer progressed and reached a peak in late July when as many as 10 to 15 individuals per hour could be found sunning. Juvenile lizards began to appear toward the end of that month and by mid-August were fairly abundant (an average of six per hour were sighted in areas close to the pet center).

Weather conditions proved to be the instrumental factor controlling the lizards' daily emergence. On hot, sunny days sightings were abundant whereas on overcast days the animals were rarely seen. On days of intermittent sunshine animals could be sighted, but never in great numbers.

Placement of pit traps (Fitch, 1954) in areas known to be heavily populated by lizards resulted in the live capture of 7 adults and 12 juveniles. These were confined for further observations. Adult males (Fig. 1) averaged 195 mm in length and 7.81 g in weight. Adult females (Fig. 2) averaged 169 mm in length and 6.38 g in weight. Juveniles measured 71 to 82 mm and weighed between 0.30 and 0.45 g.

On several visits to study sites, lizards were observed feeding, but usually at such great distances that identification of prey was im-

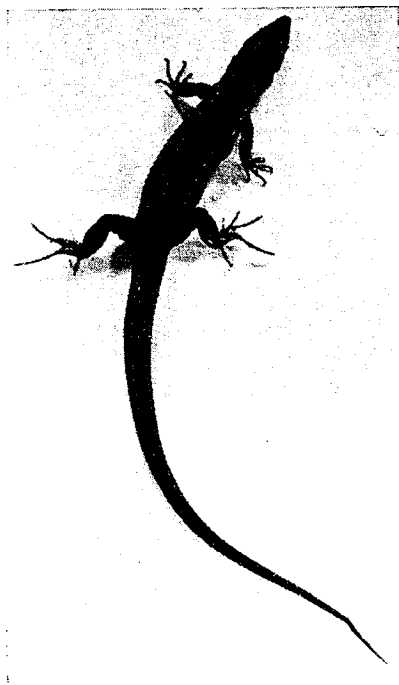


Fig. 2. Adult female *Lacerta sicula* from Long Island colony.

possible. Once, however, with the aid of binoculars, an adult lizard was seen to seize and devour a cricket, a common and abundant insect on Long Island.

Success of these animals appears to be linked in part with the absence of natural predators. There is no direct evidence that the lizards are being preyed upon or even disturbed by anything other than man, although potential lizard predators occur in the vicinity. Among those sighted were house cats, dogs, sea gulls and one snake.

On 4 August 1973, one of the captive females laid 3 pinkish-white eggs averaging 12 mm in length and weighing 1.25 g. The eggs were incubated in damp sand for a period of 44 days before hatching occurred. Two hatchlings averaging 72 mm in length and weighing 0.32 g emerged on 18 and 19 September, 1973.

This European lizard has been identified as *Lacerta sicula sicula*, as defined by Boulenger (1920). It is commonly called the ruin lizard and is native to southern Italy, Sicily and the Lipari Islands, inhabiting areas where debris and vegetation are closely intermingled (Hellmich, 1962). A Philadelphia colony of *Lacerta sicula* (Kauffeld, 1931) persisted for at least 28 years and may still be extant (Conant, 1959). The ability to establish a reproducing population in such a heavily commercialized area of Long Is-

land suggests potential for even greater success and expansion. It is likely that this reptile stands a good chance of becoming a permanent resident of Long Island.

Specimens of Long Island lacertids have been deposited in the American Museum of Natural History (110430-110442).

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**IDENTITY AND CALL OF THE FROG, *LEPTODACTYLUS STENODEMA*.**—The acquisition of recent material from Colombia and the examination of specimens from Ecuador indicate that *Leptodactylus stenodema* Jiménez de la Espada, 1875, is a valid species. The purposes of this note are to discuss the allocation of the name *Leptodactylus stenodema*, diagnose the species from its close relatives, describe the call and appearance in life, and comment on the ecology of this form.

*Leptodactylus stenodema* is a member of the Pentadactylus species group characterized by large size and broad head (Fig. 1). Within the Pentadactylus group, *L. stenodema* is unique in having the combination of 1) moderate size, males to 90 mm, females to 105 mm; 2) dark-outlined dorsolateral folds; 3) no cross bars between the eyes or dorsolateral folds; 4) no spots or dark markings on posterior surface of