

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTIONS

LACERTIDAE

Pedioplanis lineocellata lineocellata (Duméril & Bibron 1839)

Spotted Sand Lizard

On 10 February 2013, a juvenile *Pedioplanis l. lineocellata* was found 25 km south of Gam, Otjozondjupa region, Namibia (field number SK160, to be catalogued at the Museum for Naturkunde Berlin, Germany). Based on museum collections (Museum for Naturkunde Berlin, (Germany), Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (Austria), Ditsong National Museum of Natural History (Pretoria), Port Elizabeth Museum and the National Museum of Namibia (Windhoek) five localities with *P. l. lineocellata* populations (or at least single records) have been recorded near the Otjozondjupa region, plus an additional one from near Katima Mulilo in the non-arid Caprivi strip (Fig. 1, circled area). However, in the literature these areas are largely overlooked as being part of the distribution range of the species (see Branch, 1998). -Bates & Heideman (1997) recorded a specimen of *P. lineocellata* (referred to *P. l. cf. pulchella*) from Onyaanya in Ovamboland which represented the most northerly record for this species. Timberlake & Childes (2004, p. 325) classify *P. lineocellata* as part of the Central Kalahari Fauna and describe its distribution as “a wide range in arid SW Africa, ranging north through the Kalahari to the margins of the Okavango/Makgadikgadi”.

The collected *P. l. lineocellata* specimen has a snout-to-vent length (SVL) of 28 mm, 12-14 rows of ventral scales around midbody, two large black-edged transparent scales at each lower eyelid, no enlarged tympanic shield and the posterior dorsal scales are rhombic, slightly overlapping and slightly keeled, smaller but almost as large as the scales on the tibia. The colour is blackish with a greyish head and a greyish broad vertebral stripe lined by two rows of 14 and 15 light grey spots. On each side there is one dorsolateral and one lateral cream-coloured stripe and an additional row of spots in between. The limbs are grey with light spots.

The southern-most record of the five localities from the Otjozondjupa region (see Fig. 1), catalogued as TM 80374 and recorded by Wulf Haacke (former Curator of Herpetology in the Transvaal Museum (now the Ditsong Museum of Natural History, Pretoria), was confirmed during our survey. It was found in Kalahari Acacia Woodland (20°27'46"S, 20°43'21"E, 2020BD) in a patch largely dominated by *Combretum apiculatum* with a semi-dense grass layer on sandy soil (Fig. 2). In the surrounding area, which was much more open and *Acacia* sp. was the dominating tree species, the following reptile species were recorded: *Trachylepis varia*, *Meroles squamulosus*, *Ichnotropis capensis*, *Heliobolus lugubris* and *Agama aculeata*.

The nearest record from the Otjozondjupa region is 25 km away at Gam, catalogued as SMR 3519 in the National Museum of Namibia. The nearest record within the published distribution range is from Farm Labora 436 (TM 33517) which is 200 km south-west.

The known range of *Pedioplanis l. lineocellata* extends from around the Etosha pan in northern Namibia south to the Sperrgebiet and Bloemfontein in South Africa, east across southern Botswana to the Limpopo Province in South Africa (Branch, 1998). Generally, the species is known to occur in a variety of habitats including karroid veld, mesic thicket and arid and mesic savannah, but it is absent from deep sand areas like the Namib Desert and the central Kalahari (Branch, 1998).

REFERENCES

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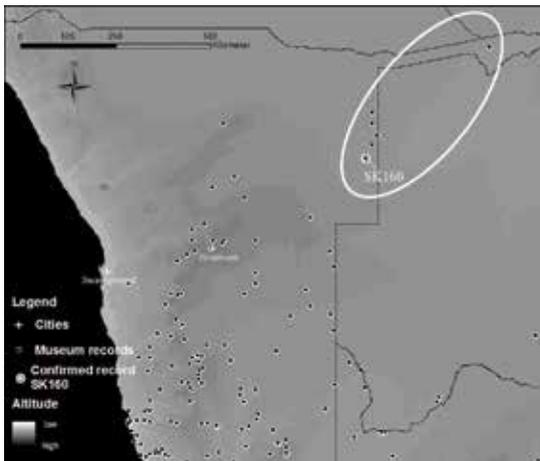


Figure 1. Part of the distribution range of *P. l. lineocellata* compiled from the museum collections of the Museum for Naturkunde Berlin, (Germany), Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (Austria), Ditsong Museum of Natural History, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth Museum (both in South Africa) and the National Museum of Namibia in Windhoek, including the confirmed record SK160. The circled area shows the localities that are hitherto mostly neglected in the literature.