

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF SPINY-TAILED  
IGUANA FROM GUATEMALA.

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The U. S. National Museum has recently received from Mrs. K. I. P. McElroy a few reptiles from Gualan, Guatemala, among which there are three individuals of a very distinct species of the Central American genus *Ctenosaura*. In naming this species I have mentioned the most marked character by which it may be distinguished from all its congeners.

CTENOSAURA PALEARIS, new species.

*Diagnosis.*—A large dewlap hanging from the posterior part of the throat; caudal whorls of spines separated by a single row of scales; upper side of tibia covered with large hexagonal scales, each armed with a central spine; dorsal crest high, but composed of 35 to 45 spines only; interrupted on rump.

*Type.*—No. 22703, U.S.N.M.

*Habitat.*—Gualan, Guatemala.

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE SPECIMEN.

*Adult male.*—Head rather short; muzzle with decurved profile, covered above with rather large and slightly rugose scales; supraoculars small, nearly granular externally, larger, hexagonal and flat internally, separated from each other by three rows of scales; parietal scales slightly smaller than those on top of muzzle, tubercular; nostrils large, much nearer the tip of snout than the orbit, almost tubular, opening obliquely backward; behind nostrils a large, flat scale; one or two canthal scales; lores flat; temporals slightly smaller than the occipitals, tubercular; 10 or 11 enlarged supralabials; 9 enlarged sublabials; ear opening as large as orbit; dorsal scales small, hardly more than half the size of the ventral scales, gradually increasing in size posteriorly, smooth; a well-developed dorsal crest, barely indicated on the rump. The spines of the crest, 45 in number, all told, begin almost immediately behind the head; first six spines very small, followed by two somewhat

larger ones; ninth is suddenly larger and tenth still larger, equaling the largest; the spines are very compressed, about 8.3 mm. (0.325 inch) high and 3.8 mm. (0.15 inch) wide at base, and falcate in shape; their base is flexible and covered for about one-fourth of their height with two to three rows of minute scales; the last 12 spines decrease gradually in size, the last being equal to the first ones on the nape; about 10 small carinated scales follow until the caudal crest begins; three transverse dermal folds across the throat, which, with a similar one behind the ear, join two longitudinal folds on the side of the neck; these extend backward over the shoulder for some distance; between the anterior and posterior transverse gular folds a large compressed dewlap 32 mm. (1¼ inches) from middle of base to top, the base along the middle of the throat being about 38 mm. (1½ inches); scales on throat and dewlap slightly smaller than the ventral scales, all smooth; scales on upper side of arm obtusely carinate, those on lower arm slightly larger, more distinctly carinate and somewhat spinous at tip; scales on femur slightly larger than the ventral scales, those on the upper surface obtusely keeled and with a small pointed tubercle at tip; scales on upper middle portion of tibia greatly enlarged, more or less regularly hexagonal, each with a falcate spine near center; scales on upper side of hind feet toward toes enlarged, keeled and spinous; 7 large femoral pores on each side; tail somewhat constricted at insertion, much depressed at base, becoming subcylindrical posteriorly; caudal scales above and laterally in whorls of large spinous scales, separated by a single row of smaller flat scales, the central one being spinous, however; in the spinous row the median scales are shortest, the lateral ones longest, while in the smaller and smooth row the proportion is reversed, so that the anterior outline of the large row is concave and the posterior outline of the small row convex; the outlines of each pair of rows perfectly straight; in the spinous row the scale on each side of the central one is without a spine; the lateral spines are straight, the central ones falcate; the median spines form a caudal crest, in the basal half of which the spines alternate large and small, according to whether they belong to the large or small row; caudal scales below much smaller, three rows corresponding to each pair above, strongly keeled and pointed posteriorly.

Color, green with yellow variegations on throat, dewlap, and lateral folds; dorsal crest pale yellowish; on the body several ill defined, chevron-shaped blackish bands, which do not cross the dorsal crest, but the posterior three of which reach the abdomen; tail marked with broad bands of dull blackish brown.

*Measurements of type specimen of Ctenosaura palearis.*

	mm.	inches.
Total length.....	429	= 16.9
Tip of snout to front of ear opening.....	41	= 1.6
Width of head at front of ear opening....	29	= 1.15
Length of tail.....	231	= 9.1
Fore limb.....	69	= 2.7
Hind limb.....	216	= 8.5

*Remarks.*—There is another specimen (No. 22704, U.S.N.M.) of same age and sex, which differs in no essential feature from the one described, except that the dorsal crest consists of 36 spines only, and that the interruption between the dorsal and caudal crests is complete, being not even indicated by a row of carinated scales. Another peculiarity is that one of the small scales at the base in front of each dorsal spine has developed into a very minute spine. A third specimen (No. 24459, U.S.N.M.) is very young, only 198 mm. (7.8 inches) long. The dewlap is already well indicated, being 5 mm. (0.2 inch) deep; all the other diagnostic characters are also present and well marked. The dorsal crest is quite pronounced, the spines being triangular, about as high as long; the large ones are standing some distance apart, the intervals being wider than the basis of the spines; the small ones at the anterior and posterior ends are placed quite close; the number of the spines is 37; the crest perfectly interrupted on the rump. Eight femoral pores. Color essentially as the adults.

The present species is not nearly related to any of the species known hitherto, and does not require special comparison with any of them. It comes, perhaps, nearest to *C. quinquecarinata* (Gray), but the structure of the tail is very different, and the dorsal crest of *C. palearis* is both longer and higher, with much fewer and broader spines. In addition it differs from *C. quinquecarinata*, as well as from all the other species of the genus, in the possession of the enormously developed dewlap. That part of the generic definition of *Ctenosaura* which reads "no gular pouch" will consequently have to be changed, as the presence of this appendage will not justify the establishment of a separate genus for *C. palearis*.