

# MONOGRAPH

OF THE

# LACERTIDÆ.

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## 4. PHILOCHORTUS.

*Latastia*, part., Bouleng. Cat. Liz. iii, p. 54 (1887).

*Philochortus*, Matschie, Sitzb. Ges. Nat. Fr. Berl. 1893, p. 30;  
Bouleng. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1917, p. 145.

Head-shields normal, save for the occasional absence of the interparietal. Nostril pierced between two shields and bordered by the first upper labial or narrowly separated from it. Lower eyelid scaly, often more or less transparent in the middle. Collar well marked. Back with two to six longitudinal series of large plate-like scales; ventral plates feebly imbricate, with truncate posterior border, smooth. Digits more or less compressed, with smooth or keeled lamellar scales inferiorly. Femoral pores. Tail long, cylindrical.

Southern Arabia, Eritrea, Somaliland.

This genus differs from *Lacerta* and *Latastia* in the longitudinal series of enlarged plate-like scales on the back, an approximation to the condition in *Poromera*, *Tachydromus*, and *Holaspis*.

In all the species the parietal foramen is absent, and a few small teeth are usually present on the pterygoids.

The subdigital lamellæ vary according to individuals; they are usually smooth or with two series of obtuse tubercles; sometimes,

however, the tubercles form obtuse keels, and in a female of *P. neumanni* there is a rather sharp keel along the middle. Steindachner has already observed that of the two types of *P. hardeggeri* one has the subdigital lamellæ distinctly keeled, whilst in the other the keels are scarcely indicated.

The species grouped under this genus thus afford another argument against the unnatural division of the Lacertidæ into two main groups, *Liodactyli* and *Pristidactyli*, according to the absence or presence of keels on the lower surface of the digits, which the state of things in *Psammodromus* and *Scaptira* had already led me to abandon.

*Synopsis of the Species.*

- I. Dorsal plates smooth or very feebly keeled; interparietal usually absent or separated from the occipital by the parietals meeting in the middle; usually 4 upper labials anterior to the subocular; 11 to 15 femoral pores on each side.
- 30 to 46 dorsal plates and scales across the middle of the body;  
hind limb not reaching the ear; foot  $1\frac{1}{3}$  to  $1\frac{2}{3}$  times length of head . . . . . *P. spinalis*, Peters, p. 3.
- 28 or 30 dorsal plates and scales across the middle of the body;  
hind limb reaching the ear; foot  $1\frac{2}{3}$  times length of head.  
*P. phillipsii*, Blgr., p. 5.
- II. Dorsal plates more or less strongly, rarely feebly keeled; interparietal in contact with the occipital or separated from it by a small shield; usually 5 upper labials anterior to the subocular.
- 38 to 42 dorsal plates and scales across the middle of the body;  
12 to 14 large keeled scales in a transverse series between the hind limbs; supraoculars in contact with the frontal;  
29 to 34 gular scales in a longitudinal series; 14 to 16 femoral pores on each side; 33 to 35 lamellar scales under the fourth toe . . . . . *P. neumanni*, Matsch., p. 7.
- 33 to 40 dorsal plates and scales across the middle of the body;  
12 to 18 large keeled scales in a transverse series between the hind limbs; supraoculars in contact with the frontal;  
21 to 28 gular scales in a longitudinal series; 12 to 18 femoral pores on each side; 24 to 30 lamellar scales under the fourth toe . . . . . *P. intermedius*, Blgr., p. 9.
- 24 to 30 dorsal plates and scales across the middle of the body; 8 keeled plates in a transverse series between the hind limbs; supraoculars usually separated from the frontal by a series of granules; 25 to 28 gular scales in a longitudinal series; 11 to 13 femoral pores on each side; 25 to 31 lamellar scales under the fourth toe . . . . . *P. hardeggeri*, Stdr., p. 12.