

Family Lacertidae

Meroles squamulosus (Peters, 1854)

Common Rough-scaled Lizard,
Savanna Lizard

■ LC – Least Concern (Regional)

Assessors: Tolley, K.A., Turner, A.A.

Previous Red List categories:

2021: Least Concern (Global IUCN assessment).

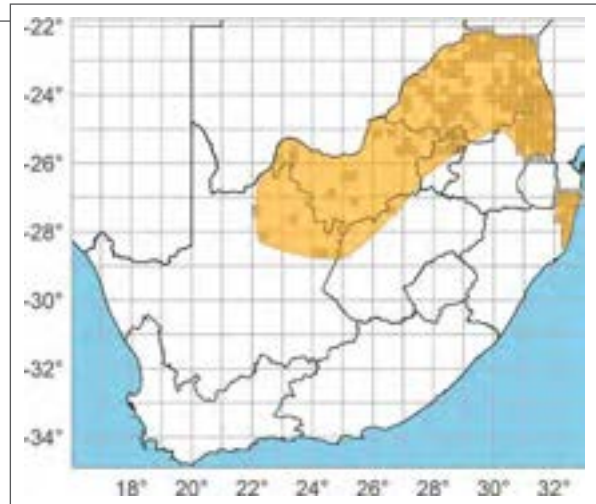
2014: Least Concern (SARCA).

Assessment rationale: This species occurs over a large area that is not heavily impacted by habitat transformation and can be locally abundant.

Taxonomic notes: No notable issues. *Other important names:* *Ichnotropis squamulosa*.

Distribution: Widely distributed from southern Angola in the west and Tanzania in the east, southwards through Mozambique, into northern South Africa (Branch 1998; Spawls et al. 2018), possibly occurring in southern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The distribution enters South Africa in two areas, the Kalahari of South Africa, extending into the northeast, and in northern KwaZulu-Natal province. It may also occur in eastern Eswatini. *EOO:* 578 000 km²; *Distribution:* 340 000 km².

Countries of occurrence: Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.



Habitat and ecology: Occurs on sandy or loose soils in both mesic and arid Savanna (Branch 1998). *Habitat:* Savanna.

Threats: There are no substantial threats to this species.

Population trend: The population size is assumed to be stable because this is a widespread and abundant species. Some parts of the distribution have been impacted by habitat loss, but the extent of habitat transformation is small in relation to the large range of this species.

Conservation and research recommendations: No recommendations.

Meroles squamulosus, Klaserie, Limpopo province (© D.W. Pietersen).

