

*Gastropholis prasina* WERNER, 1904

Green Keel-bellied Lizard

**Description:** About 35 cm in total length, tail 70% of the total. Slim, with a long prehensile tail; dorsal scales smooth, non-overlapping, small and granular; ventral scales keeled. Mainly bright emerald-green above and yellow-green below; tongue bright red. Underside scales are yellow-green. There are patches of turquoise around the limbs, and occasionally black speckled lines along the body and black speckles on the tail.

**Range:** East African coastal forests, in Kenya recorded from Watamu, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Kwale in Shimba Hills National Reserve (main gate, Kwale near Kenya Forest Service offices, Sheldrick Falls area), and at the Buda Forest Station.



Fig. 293: Green Keel-bellied Lizard *Gastropholis prasina*, Shimba Hills National Reserve.

B. BAYA



Fig. 294: Green Keel-bellied Lizard *Gastropholis prasina*, juvenile, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

P.K. MALONZA



Fig. 295: Striped Keel-bellied Lizard *Gastropholis vittata*, Tanzania.

S. SPAWLS

**Habits:** Secretive, living high up on trees and sheltering in holes, making detecting them difficult. They occasionally descend to the ground, where they may then be conspicuous.

**Conservation status:** Near Threatened (NT).