



Fig. 296: Speke's Sand Lizard *Heliobolus spekii spekii*,
Voi town. P. K. MALONZA



Fig. 297: Speke's Sand Lizard *Heliobolus spekii*
sextaeniata, Aror-Kerio Valley. P. K. MALONZA

Heliobolus spekii (GÜNTHER, 1872)

Speke's Sand Lizard

Description: Snout–vent length about 6 cm, total length about 18 cm at maximum. Tail long; head shields striated. Pale to medium brown, with five or six thin, sharply defined or diffuse, white stripes, the median four of which originate on the occiput while those forming the most lateral pair run from the upper lip and end at the hind limbs; the median pair fuses at the tail base and continues as a single stripe on the tail, while the neighbouring pair continues as lateral stripes along the tail. On the brown ground colour between the light stripes lies a series of equally spaced black markings that extend from the head to the tail; upper faces of limbs with distinct light spots; underside mainly whitish.

Taxonomy: The individuals from north of the Tana River tend to have six longitudinal stripes and are assignable to the subspecies *H. spekii sextaeniata* STEJNEGER, 1893.

Range: In moist and dry savannah, arid and semi-arid lands, from the coastal mosaic inland into the *Acacia–Commiphora* vegetation zone. Records from the south-east, east, south, and north coasts, from the Shimba Hills, Kilifi, lower Tana River, Tsavo-Taita-Ukambani lowlands, Lukenya, Samburu, Isiolo, Garissa, Kajiado, Wajir, Marsabit, Turkana, Mandera, and Moyale.

Habits: Common in suitable habitats and active by day, sheltering under bushes or grass; fast moving and hard to capture. Laying eggs and feeding on insects.

Genus *Holaspis* GRAY, 1863 — Gliding lizards

Holaspis laevis WERNER, 1896

Eastern Blue-tailed Gliding Lizard

Description: Total length about 10 cm, tail long, about 50–60% of the total. Body flattened; head long, with a pointed snout; a nuchal collar; toes long, with a ring of