

THE IDENTITY OF THE KOREAN LIZARD, *TAKYDROMUS AURORALIS* DOI.—Four species of *Takydromus* inhabit Korea; they are separated on the basis of number of femoral pores, chin shields, and the arrangement of longitudinal dorsals. Two species, *Takydromus amurensis* Peters and *Takydromus auroralis* Doi, are not easily separable. The purpose of this paper is to show that the taxon *auroralis* should be reduced to the synonymy of *Takydromus amurensis* Peters, inasmuch as none of the characters upon which *auroralis* is based hold up in distinguishing it from the more widespread *amurensis*.

Doi (1929, Jour. Chosen Nat. Hist. Soc. 9:17) described *Takydromus auroralis* from a single adult (165 mm. total body length) obtained on October 29, 1929, at Pukhansan, Kyong-ki-do Province, Korea, by Hironabu Doi. This lizard closely resembles *T. amurensis*, from which it differs in having six rows of enlarged longitudinal dorsals, three pair of femoral pores; and from other Palaearctic species in having three pair of chin shields. In this respect it was considered similar to *Takydromus smaragdinus* Boulenger from Okinawa and Miyakojima, but it can easily be distinguished from *smaragdinus* by its reddish brown instead of green ground color, higher number of femoral pores (one in *smaragdinus*), and by its having the ventral scales smooth. In *smaragdinus* the ventrals are strongly keeled.

Since the description of the type, the only other published information concerning *auroralis* is Okada (1936 Sci. Rept. Tokyo Bunrika Daigaku 2(42):241) and Shannon (1956, Herp. 12:40). Okada refers to the type as being similar to *amurensis* in external appearance and to *smaragdinus* in scale arrangement. Shannon recognized *auroralis* on the basis of "three pair of chin shields, six rows of enlarged longitudinal dorsals and three femoral pores on each side." Shannon probably referred to the table in Doi's paper, which shows *auroralis* as having only six longitudinal rows of dorsals, whereas the description actually states "large back scales are in six longitudinal rows and in the middle of these rows there is one row of small scales."

Walley (1958, Copeia 1958(4):338) found in *amurensis* considerable variation in the number of longitudinal dorsals, ranging from seven to 11 in 40 specimens examined. Two specimens from Musan Pass, Northern Korea (Calif. Acad.Sci. 31819 and 31822) and one from Kong-Ju, Central Korea (CAS 31777) agree with *auroralis* in having six rows of enlarged longitudinal dorsals with a single reduced median row but differ in having four pair of chin shields.

Stejneger (1925, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 66(2562:58) described a female *amurensis* USNM 52344 collected by Mr. Sowerby on the

north bank of the Yalu River, 180 miles from its mouth, in southern Manchuria having six enlarged longitudinal dorsals with a single median row of smaller scales and having only three pair of chin shields, the first and second being fused. This specimen closely fits the description of *auroralis*, except for its having the anterior two pair of chin shields fused. In examining Doi's figure (B) showing the submental shields of *auroralis*, I find that the posterior two pair of chin shields in *auroralis* are also fused.

Schmidt (1927, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 54(4):486) reported a specimen of *amurensis* from Mukden, Manchuria, having five pair of chin shields; specimen from Shoko, Northern Korea, (CAS 31839) also has five pair of chin shields with the normal number of femoral pores and eight enlarged rows of longitudinal dorsals.

Both *auroralis* and *amurensis* are indistinguishable on the basis of femoral pores with each species having three pores on each side. Occasional specimens of *amurensis* have four pores on each side (Tanner, Great Basin Nat. 13(2-4): 1953, 71; Dixon, 1956, Herp. 12:53; and Walley *op. cit.*). An additional specimen (Chicago Nat. Hist. Mus. 83985), recently received from the Leningrad Museum and collected from Far East Preserve, Kedrovaja, U.S.S.R., also has four femoral pores on each side, four pair of chin shields and eight rows of enlarged dorsals.

*Takydromus auroralis* has been collected only from the type locality which lies within the range of *amurensis*. Only the type specimen has been reported, and this is believed to have been destroyed in Seoul during the recent Korean War.

In view of the similarity in scale arrangement and color pattern, *Takydromus auroralis* should be relegated to the synonymy of *Takydromus amurensis* Peters.

I wish to thank Dr. Chiyoko Tokunaga for the translation of the type description and Dr. Alan E. Leviton, Dr. Doris M. Cochran, Dr. Robert F. Inger and Mr. Hyman Marx for the loan of material.—HARLAN D. WALLEY, R.F.D., Sheridan, Illinois.