

A GENUS OF GECKO NEW TO THE GREATER ANTILLES

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The only mention of the genus *Phyllodactylus* in the West Indies is in Barbour's List of Antillean Reptiles and Amphibians, 1930, Page 82. "*Phyllodactylus spatulatus* Cope. Collected years ago in Barbados, about 1861, in fact, by Dr. Theodore Gill. I have no recent information as to its status."

The January, 1932, number of this Bulletin contains a joint article on the herpetology of Caja de Muertos Island in which the writer and Cornelius Roosevelt report the capture of two specimens of *Phyllodactylus spatulatus* Cope.

The identification was made by comparison with some poor specimens kindly loaned for the purpose by the National Museum. The specimens appeared to differ somewhat, but no better comparisons seemed feasible in the time available.

On December 26, 1931, the writer was collecting on a hilltop near Parguera in southwest Puerto Rico. The third and largest specimen was collected from under a small dry log.

The three specimens were taken to the American Museum where, although no specimens were available for comparison, identification was made as closely as possible from a book as *P. pulcher*, Gray.

The type specimen is in the British Museum. Type locality, tropical America.

It now remains for the academic scientist to explain the presence of this little waif in Puerto Rico in terms calculated to quiet further questioning. It may be a "flotsam-jetsam arrival" or have arrived "fortuitously through nonhuman agencies", or across a "land bridge". Personally I believe that the following quotation should amply account for it. "It must be recognized that evolution in the direction of habitat restriction may strictly parallel an evolution in which the primitive forms become peripheral by retreat in space". What more could be said.

Some measurements of the three specimens:

	1	2	3
Snout to vent.....	28.	41.	45. mm.
Snout to ear.....	9.	12.5	13.5 mm.
Vent to tail tip.....	---	---	53. mm.

There is no femoral scale differentiation; consequently the three specimens are probably females.

A description of the third and largest specimen follows:

Phyllodactylus pulcher.

Diagnosis: A gecko of moderate size, the digits expanded at the ends into a pair of large lamellae, between which a small claw protrudes; 20 rows of large dorsal tubercles, keeled, closely set; no tubercles on tail; color brown, transversely striped with eight light bands outlined in dark brown, nape to pelvis; seven light rings on tail; rudimentary eyelids provided with about six short black spines posteriorly.

Habitat: Caja de Muertos Island and Southwest Puerto Rico; "Tropical America."

Squamation: Rostral broader than high, squarish, slightly creased medially above, higher than labials, narrower than mental, in contact with two supranasals; nostril at point of contact of rostral, supranasal and first supralabial followed by two postnasals; six supralabials, fifth ending just posterior to pupil, followed by small scales; top of head covered with large roughly hexagonal tubercles, about 13 between eyelids; posteriorly on head tubercles interspersed with granules; eye slightly nearer to snout than to ear; its diameter being $1\frac{1}{2}$ its distance from snout, rudimentary eyelid furnished with six or more short sharp black spines posteriorly; ear opening elongate, oblique, unarmed; mental pentagonal, wider than rostral, 4 large infralabials followed by several small ones, two chin shields, irregularly pentagonal, their anterior angle fitting into corner between mental and part of first infralabial, broadly in contact with each other on the median line, followed by two rows of about 6 somewhat enlarged flat scales, then by small flat scales to neck; neck to vent and lower surface of legs covered by larger smooth, imbricate cycloid scales, about 22 across center of body, about 50 neck to vent; upper surface of body, flanks and legs covered by large keeled tubercles, the two median rows elongated, the rest nearly round, ten rows across center of back, 33 rows occiput to base of tail; tubercles separated by about one granule front to rear and two laterally; fingers and toes all with about 10 rows of transverse lamellae the terminal few in pairs; terminally two large square lamellae, between which protrudes a small claw; dorsal aspect of digits resembles a lobster telson; tail cylindrical, covered above and laterally with large imbricate scales irregularly interspersed with small similar

scales, underside one row of transverse scales, all scales pitted over their entire surface.

Color and markings: Upper surface brown and light; a dark brown diamond with light center on snout; head marbled brown and light; dark transocular stripe, snout to ear; 11 alternate light and dark transverse bands, nape to base of tail, edged with darker brown; tail similarly ringed with about 15 alternate rings; underside, light, finely specked with brown, several specks on each scale except under jaws where each scale bears one brown speck. Young more vividly colored than larger specimens.

Pupil vertical with wavy edges. Undoubtedly a species of nocturnal habits.

Reference: Gray, Spicil. Zool., Vol. 1, p. 3, pl. 3, Fig. 1.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XXXIX

Phyllodactylus pulcher, young.