

THE GROWTH OF HERPETOLOGY IN THE PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN ISLAND AREA

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The earliest writers, Navarette, Oviedo, Casas and Herrera, writing in the latter part of the 15th century make no mention of our reptiles, according to de Armas in his "La Zoologica de Colon y de los Primeros Exploradores de America". They mention reptiles in Santo Domingo and on the Costa Firme only.

1654. Dutertre treats of the reptiles and amphibians of the Lesser Antilles and the Virgin Islands as a whole. He was probably plagiarized by de Rochefort in 1658 and later. Their description of the iguana; its habits and its use by the indians is graphic and probably authentic.

1788. Fra Inigo Abbad y Lasierra speaks of three species as occurring in Puerto Rico. This is the first mention of Puerto Rican reptiles.

1793. H. West wrote on the reptiles of St. Croix and St. Thomas, listing 7 species.

1796-98. Mr. Andre-Pierre Le Dru, a botanist, recorded 12 species from Puerto Rico, but no scientific cognizance is given to his herpetological work.

1863. J. Reinhardt and C. F. Leuthen published the first list of any scientific value, recognizing 10 species of reptiles and amphibians.

1868. E. D. Cope listed 15 species from Puerto Rico.

1876. W. Peters recognized 21 species.

1882. Agostin Stahl published his Catalogue. At this time 23 species were known.

1904. Dr. Leonard Stejneger recorded 35 species in a most scholarly work.

1928. K. P. Schmidt and in 1930 Thomas Barbour recognized 43 species from the Puerto Rico Area and an additional 10 from the Virgin Islands.

1932. The present list comprises 62 species from the Puerto Rico Area and 28 from the Virgin Islands of which 13 species occur on parts of both groups; a total of 77 species exclusive of marine turtles, but inclusive of extinct and introduced forms. The writer has described 11 new species in this Journal, one in *Copeia* and several remain to be described in my collection of 7,200 specimens.

KEY TO THE FOLLOWING LISTS:

- n — New species described by the writer.
- f — First local record of a known species.
- r — Reestablished as a valid species.
- z — Extinct locally or wholly.
- ? — Local occurrence questioned. If in first column the validity of species is questioned.
- i — Introduced.

Some of the data in the following lists was kindly furnished by Miss Doris Cochran.

Herpetological list of species from the Puerto Rico Area		Mona	Puerto Rico	Vieques	Culebra	Virgin Islands
Bufo lemur	Cope	1868	x			
B. turpis	Barbour	1917				x
B. marinus l.	Linnaeus	1758	x i			
Leptodactylus albilabris	Gunther	1859	x l	x	x	
L. fallax i	Müller	1923	x 2 i			
Eleutherodactylus portoricensis	Schmidt	1927	x 3			x f
E. gryllus	Schmidt	1920	x			
E. locustus	Schmidt	1920	x			
E. cramptoni	Schmidt	1920	x			
E. antillensis	R. & L.	1863	x	x	x	x
E. brittoni	Schmidt	1920	x			
E. wightmani	Schmidt	1920	x			
E. richmondi	Stejneger	1904	x			
E. monensis	Meerwarth	1901	x			
E. unicolor	Stejneger	1904	x			
E. karlschmidti	Grant	1931	x n			
E. cochranae	Grant	1932				x n
E. cooki	Grant	1932	x n			
E. lentus	Cope	1862				x
Hemidactylus brookii	Gray	1844	x f 4			
H. mabouia	Jonnes	1868		x f		x
Thecadactylus rapicaudus	(Houthuyn)	1782				x
Phyllodactylus pulcher	Gray	1830	x f			
Sphaerodactylus grandisquamis	Stejneger	1904	x r			
S. macrolepis	Gunther	1859				x 5
S. klauberi	Grant	1931	x n			
S. rosevelti	Grant	1931	x n	x n		
S. nicholsi	Grant	1931	x n			
S. townsendi	Grant	1931	x n	x n		
S. danforthi	Grant	1931		x n	x n	
S. monensis	Meerwarth	1901	x r			
S. gaigeae	Grant	1932	x n			
Iguana iguana i.	Linnaeus	1758				x i
Anolis cuvieri	Meerem	1820	x	x		x ?
A. rosevelti	Grant	1931			x n	
A. cristatellus	D. & B.	1837	x	x	x	x
A. acutus	Hallowell	1856				x
A. gundlachi	Peters	1871	x			
A. stratulus	Cope	1861	x	x	x	x
A. evermanni	Stejneger	1904	x			
A. pulchellus	D. & B.	1837	x	x	x	x
A. krugi	Peters	1871	x			
A. poncensis	Stejneger	1904	x			
A. monensis	Stejneger	1904	x r			
A. newtonii ?	Gunther	1859				x
Cyclura stejnegeri	Barbour & N.	1916	x			
C. mattea Z	Miller	1918				x z
C. portoricensis Z	Barbour	1919		x z		
C. pinguis	Barbour	1916				x
Celestus pleii	D. & B.	1839	x			
Ameiva wetmorei	Stejneger	1904	x			
A. eleanorae	Grant & Roosevelt	1931	x 6 n			
A. polops	Cope	1862				x
A. exsul	Cope	1862	x	x	x	x
A. alboguttata	Boulenger	1896	x			
A. birdorum	Grant	1932	x n 7			
Amphisbaena caeca	Cuvier	1829	x			x
A. fenestrata	Cope	1861	x			x
A. bakeri ?	Stejneger	1904	x			
Mabuya sloanii	Daudin	1803	x			
M. semitaeniatus	Wiegmann	1837	x r	?	x r	x r
Typhlops sp. 8	Shaw	1802	x r	x	x f	x f
T. richardii	D. & B.	1844				x r
T. monensis ?	Schmidt	1926	x			
T. rostellatus	Stejneger	1904		x		
Epicrates inornatus	Reinhardt	1843		x		
E. sp. 9	Grant	1932				x n
E. monensis	Zenneck	1898	x			
Dromicus stahli	Stejneger	1904		x		
D. exiguus	Cope	1862			?	x
Alsophis antillensis	Schlegel	1837			?	x
A. portoricensis	R. & L.	1863		x		x
A. variegatus ?	Schmidt	1926	x			
A. sancti-crucis	Cope	1862				x
Pseudemys rugosa	Stahl	1882		x	x f	
P. desussata	Peters	1876		x		
Testudo tabulata i.	Walbaum	1782		x z i		x i

Notes:

1. The Puerto Rico form seems to be distinct from that of the Virgin Islands.
2. Introduced by the Experiment Station of Mayagüez in 1929 again in 1932 from Dominica without evidence of establishment as yet.
3. I believe this name includes two species.
4. Misidentified by earlier writers as being *H. mabouia*.
5. This species has recently been confused with *S. grandisquamis* and *S. monensis*.
6. Known only from Caja de Muertos island.
7. Known only from Diablo Key off Fajardo.
8. This group of the genus is in need of revision. I hope to report on my series of over 100 from 7 islands.
9. To be described.

In the Virgin Island List:

St. Croix includes Buck Island.

St. Thomas includes; Water Island, Hassell Island, Buck Island Saba Island.

St. John includes; Congo and Lovango Keys.

St. James includes; Little St. James, Dog Island.

Tortola includes; Guana, Buck, Salt and Peter Islands.

Herpetological list of species from the Virgin Islands		St. Croix	St. Thomas	St. John	Virgin Gorda	Anegada	St. James	Tortola	Just Van Dyke
<i>Bufo turpis</i>	Barbour..... 1917.				x				
<i>Leptodactylus albilabris</i>	Gunther..... 1859.	x	x	x f		x		x	x
<i>Eleutherodactylus lentus</i>	Cope..... 1862.	x	x						
<i>E. antillensis</i>	R. & L..... 1863.		x	x f				x	
<i>E. portoricensis</i>	Schmidt..... 1927.			x f				x f	
<i>E. cochranæ</i>	Grant..... 1932.		x n	x n					
<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>	Jonnes..... 1868.	x	x	x				x	x
<i>Thecadactylus rapicaudus</i>	(Houttuyn)..... 1782.	x	x						
<i>Sphaerodactylus macrolepis</i>	Gunther..... 1859.		x	x f	x	x	x f	x	
<i>Iguana iguana</i>	Linnaeus..... 1758.		x					x f	
<i>Anolis cuvieri</i>	Merrem..... 1820.							x?	
<i>A. cristatellus</i>	D. & B..... 1837.		x	x f	x	x	x f	x	
<i>A. acutus</i>	Hallowell..... 1856.	x							
<i>A. stratulus</i>	Cope..... 1861.		x	x f					
<i>A. pulchellus</i>	D. & B..... 1837.	x	x	x f	x	x	x f	x	
<i>A. newtoni</i> ?.....	Gunther..... 1859.	x						x	x
<i>Cyclura mattea</i>	Miller..... 1918.		x z						
<i>C. pinguis</i>	Barbour..... 1916.					x			
<i>Ameiva polops</i>	Cope..... 1862.	x							
<i>A. exsul</i>	Cope..... 1862.	x?	x			x f	x f	x f	
<i>Amphisbaena fenestrata</i>	Cope..... 1861.	x	x	x				x f	
<i>Mabuya semitaeniatus</i>	Wiegmann..... 1837.	x	x	x?				x f	x
<i>Typhlops richardii</i>	D. & B..... 1844.	x?	x	x f				x f	
<i>Epicrates</i> sp.....	Grant..... 1932.							x n	
<i>Dromicus exiguus</i>	Cope..... 1862.		x	x				x f	
<i>Alsophis antillensis</i>	Schlegel..... 1837.		x	x?	x		x f	x f	
<i>A. sancti-crucis</i>	Cope..... 1862.	x							
<i>Testudo tabulata</i>	Walbaum..... 1782.		x f	x f					