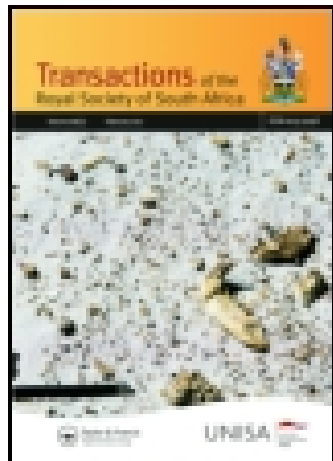


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ON A NEW LIZARD OF THE GENUS *LATASTIA* FROM
SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

BY G. A. BOULENGER, LL.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.

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The occurrence in Southern Rhodesia of *Eremias nitida*, Gthr., a species inhabiting Nigeria and Togoland, has been reported by Hewitt and Power ('Trans. R. Soc. S. Afr.' iii, 1913, p. 156), and seemed so highly improbable to me that I applied to Mr. Power for the loan of the specimen on which the identification was based, and this favour was most obligingly granted by Miss Wilman. The result of my examination is that the lizard is no *Eremias*, but a *Latastia*, a genus established by Bedriaga for species formerly confounded with *Lacerta*, but which differ in having keeled subdigital scales—a character in which they agree with *Eremias*. The only character separating the latter from *Latastia* is the position of the nostril, widely separated from the first upper labial shield, which is not the case in the lizard from Eldorado, here described as a new species, with which the name of its discoverer, Mr. O. A. Kidwell, is associated. The discovery is a very important one, as it extends the range of the genus, previously unknown from South Africa.

LATASTIA KIDWELLI, sp. n.

Body scarcely depressed. Head moderately depressed, $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as broad, its depth equal to the distance between the centre of the eye and the tympanum, its length $4\frac{1}{3}$ times in length to vent; snout obtusely pointed, as long as postocular part of head, with sharp canthus and vertical loreal region. Pileus $1\frac{4}{5}$ times as long as broad. Neck as broad as the head. Hind limb reaching the shoulder; foot $1\frac{1}{3}$ times as long as the head; toes slender, compressed.

Nostril pierced between 4 shields; nasals forming a suture behind the rostral, the suture $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the frontonasal, which is much broader than long and broader than the internarial space; prefrontals forming a median suture; frontal slightly longer than its distance from the end of the snout, $1\frac{2}{3}$ times as long as broad, rounded in front, much narrower behind, grooved along the anterior $\frac{2}{3}$; parietals $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as broad, with straight outer border; interparietal $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as broad, separated from the small occipital by a very small shield. Four supraoculars, first

and fourth small, the three anterior in contact with the frontal, the second and third equal; 6 superciliaries, separated from the supraoculars by a complete series of granules. Lower eyelid opaque, with vertically enlarged scales in the middle. Rostral not entering the nostril; 2 superposed post-nasals; anterior loreal $\frac{1}{3}$ the length of the second; 5 upper labials anterior to the subocular, which is narrower beneath than above; temporal scales granular; a very narrow tympanic shield.

Four pairs of chin-shields, and a very small fifth, first three in contact in the middle; 25 gular scales between the symphysis of the chin-shields and the median collar-plate, increasing in size and imbricate towards the collar; no gular fold; collar with strongly serrated edge, composed of 10 plates.

Scales strongly keeled, granular on the nape, rhombic and feebly imbricate on the body; the keels distinct on the lateral scales down to the ventrals; 42 scales across the middle of the body, 32 in a transverse series between the hind limbs. Ventral plates in 8 longitudinal series, the outer plate small, and 26 transverse series. Preanal plates small, forming pairs in the middle.

A series of 7 large transverse plates under the forearm. Scales on upper surface of tibia keeled, much smaller than dorsals. 13-14 femoral pores. Subdigital lamellæ bicarinate, 23 under the fourth toe.

Caudal scales strongly keeled, upper oblique, 26 in the fourth whorl.

Brown above, with 8 light streaks on the neck in front and 7 behind, these streaks more indistinct on the body; series of black spots between them on the sides; belly whitish.

Measurements, in Millimetres.

From end of snout to vent.	. . . . .	48
From end of snout to fore limb.	. . . . .	17
Head.	. . . . .	11
Width of head . . . . .	. . . . .	7
Depth of head . . . . .	. . . . .	6
Fore limb . . . . .	. . . . .	15
Hind limb . . . . .	. . . . .	27
Foot . . . . .	. . . . .	15

The single specimen, a female from Eldorado, is preserved in the Kimberley Museum.

This species is very closely allied to *L. johnstonii*, Blgr., from Nyassaland, altitude 2000 metres, which differs chiefly in the narrower head, the longer parietal shields with concave outer border, and more numerous scales (50 to 52 across middle of body). *L. johnstonii* was the southernmost species of the genus, the range of which extends to the Soudan, Arabia, Asia Minor, and Mesopotamia.