

A new species of *Tropicolotes* (Reptilia: Gekkonidae) from Egypt

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Abstract: A new species of *Tropicolotes* is described from Egypt. The species is most closely related to *T. steudneri*. The two species occur in sympatry along the margin of the southern Egyptian Nile Valley. However, the new species appears to be associated with fluvial habitats, while *T. steudneri* has a wider distribution that encompasses much of the Egyptian deserts.

Kurzfassung: Aus Ägypten wird eine neue *Tropicolotes*-Art beschrieben. Sie ist mit *T. steudneri* eng verwandt und kommt mit ihr sympatrisch in Ägypten entlang der Ränder des südlichen Niltals vor. Jedoch scheint die neue Art in enger Beziehung zu den Schwemmlandflächen zu stehen, während *T. steudneri* eine weitere Verbreitung besitzt, die einen Großteil der ägyptischen Wüsten einschließt.

Key words: New species, *Tropicolotes*, Middle East, Africa, Egypt.

Introduction

The genus *Tropicolotes* PETERS 1880 (in the broader sense of LOVERIDGE 1947, MINTON et al. 1970 and LEVITON et al. 1992) encompasses 10 species, which are distributed in arid and semi-arid environments across North Africa and south-west Asia. Hitherto, the genus is represented in Egypt by four species: *T. steudneri* (Peters, 1869), *T. tripolitanus* Peters, 1880, *T. nattereri* Steindachner, 1901, and *T. somalicus* Parker, 1942 (ANDERSON 1898, FLOWER 1933, MARX 1968, SALEH 1997, BAHA EL DIN 1998). However, recent observations of *Tropicolotes* populations from the periphery of the southern Egyptian Nile Valley indicate that these are composed of two taxa. One is referable to *T. steudneri*, while the other is an unnamed taxon, which is described in this paper. The new species is closely allied to *T. steudneri*, with which it is sympatric throughout its known range.

Material and methods

A total of 145 specimens belonging to *Tropicolotes helenae* (Nikolsky, 1907) (n = 2), *T. latifi* Leviton & Anderson, 1972 (n = 1), *T. levitoni* Golubev & Szczerbak, 1979 (n = 1), *T. nattereri* (n = 22), *T. persicus* (Nikolsky, 1903) (n = 2), *T. scorteccii* Cherchi & Spano, 1963 (n = 10), *T. somalicus* (n = 4), *T. steudneri* (n = 66), *T. tripolitanus* (n = 21) and the new taxon described herein (n = 17) were examined. *Tropicolotes depressus* Minton & Anderson, 1965 is the only species for which no specimens were examined. Material housed in the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH), British Museum (Natural History) (BMNH), California Academy of Science