

Notes on a sympatric population of two species of spiny-tailed lizards in Sudan: *Uromastyx dispar* Heyden, 1827, and *U. ocellata* Lichtenstein, 1823 (Sauria: Agamidae)

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Abstract: A series of 27 *Uromastyx* was collected at Abu Hammad, Nile State, northern Sudan, consisting of two distinct, sympatric species: three *U. dispar* Heyden, 1827 and 24 *U. ocellata* Lichtenstein, 1823. The morphological analysis of these specimens reveals some data exceeding the previously known range of variability in these two species, including the maximum length.

Key words. *Uromastyx dispar*, *Uromastyx ocellata*, morphology, cluster analysis, Sudan.

Introduction

Two species of *Uromastyx* are known from Sudan: *Uromastyx dispar* Heyden, 1827, and *U. ocellata* Lichtenstein, 1823. In the most recent revision of the genus (WILMS 1998, WILMS & BÖHME 2000, 2001), the latter species is treated as monotypic, because these authors consider both *U. ornata* Heyden, 1827 and *U. macfadyeni* Parker, 1932, known from southeastern Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti and northwesternmost Somalia, to represent distinct species. In contrast, *U. dispar*, originally described as *U. acanthinurus dispar*, is considered to represent a polytypic species occurring in the southern Saharan range, with three subspecies: *U. d. dispar* from Sudan and Tchad, *U. dispar maliensis* from southern Algeria and Mali, and *U. dispar flavifasciata* from the Western Sahara, westernmost Algeria, and Mauritania. The nomenclatural histories of both species, reflecting earlier, differing taxonomic concepts, can be found in the synonymy/chresonymy lists given in WILMS & BÖHME (2001).

Whereas *U. ocellata* is widespread and regionally abundant, and is well represented in international natural history museums including samples from Sudan, the nominotypic form of *U. dispar* is much rarer in collections. Most specimens originate from Tchad; from Sudan, only three specimens, including the lectotype, were previously known, originating from Wadi Halfa, south-east of El Debba and Ambukol respectively (see WILMS & BÖHME 2001). The three specimens from Abu Hammad described in this paper double the number of Sudanese voucher specimens of this taxon.

Material and methods

Twenty-seven specimens of *Uromastyx* were taken from the living collection of the Sudan Natural History Museum. All specimens were previously obtained from Abu Hammad in the Nile State in the north of the Sudan. Eighteen characters were measured for each specimen: total length (TL), standard length (SL), head length (HL), snout length (SNL), snout-vent length (SNVL), tail length (TaL), eye-ear length (EEL), head width (HW), mouth width (MW),