



FIG. 1. An adult female *Pedioplanis namaquensis* showing no developed phalanges on the fore- or hindlimbs.

PEDIOPLANIS NAMAQUENSIS (Namaqua Sand Lizard). SYMBRACHYDACTYLY. Symbrachydactyly is a malformation in which digits do not develop normally, but instead are elementary nubbins (Goodell et al. 2016. *Hand* 11:262–270). No official reports of symbrachydactyly in reptiles have been made, but this phenomenon has been recorded in mammals such as humans and wild primates (Foucher et al. 2000. *Chir. Main.* 19:161–168; Garcês et al. 2020. *J. Environ. Sci. Health B.* 55:75–89). Herein I report on a case of symbrachydactyly in a museum specimen of *Pedioplanis namaquensis*.

During a review of *P. namaquensis* specimens at the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH) in Chicago, I found an example of symbrachydactyly in an adult female *P. namaquensis* (FMNH 288333; 5.15 cm SVL) collected in 1930 from Botswana. No further information was recorded regarding location. This lizard had no fully formed digits on the forelimbs or hindlimbs, but instead only had small mounds where the phalanges should be (Fig. 1). Due to the characteristics of the limbs, this can be classified as an approximal transverse deficiency.

To my knowledge, this is the first report of symbrachydactyly in a lizard. The true cause of symbrachydactyly is unknown, but it is hypothesized to result from disrupted embryonic flow to arteries during gestation by entanglement of fetal parts in bands of amniotic tissue, tissue edema, thrombi, emboli, or intrauterine compression. (Knight et al. 2012. *J. Hand Surg.* 37:1–129; Mills et al. 2019. *JAAPA* 32:32–37), but the exact causal factor is unknown (Mills et al. 2019, *op. cit.*). As this specimen was found as an adult,

the condition and subsequent lack of digits do not appear to have a negative impact on locomotion, feeding, or survival.

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