

Lacertidae

Acanthodactylus boskianus (DAUDIN, 1802)
Bosc's Fringe-toed Lizard

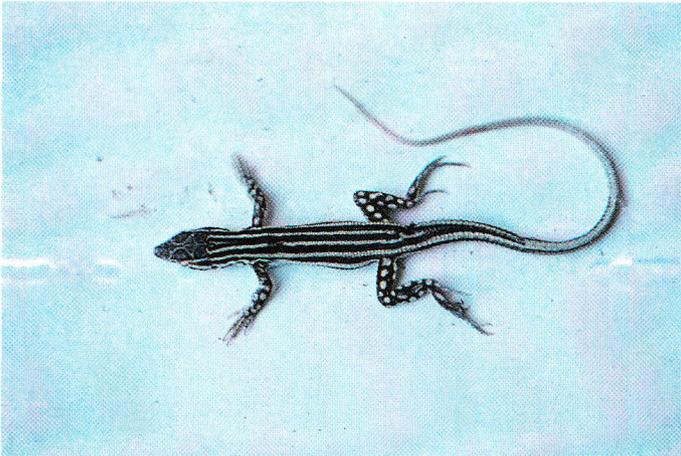
Identification: Total length up to 24 cm. The occipital plate on top of head absent or rudimentary; a longitudinal depression on the anterior part of head. Subocular usually extends down to edge of the mouth. 38-43 rows of scales around mid-trunk; femoral pores between 23-27. The lateral edges of the toes with fringe-like short spines, especially obvious at the outer borders of the 4th toes. The dorsum with 4 longitudinal white lines in young, with dark longitudinal stripes in-between, may be overlaid with round spots. The lined pattern more or less disappears on mature specimens, replaced by blackish and whitish maculations. The venter is whitish.

Habitat & Biology: Inhabits sandy areas with sparse vegetation. Very agile and quick moving, difficult to catch in open places. Feeds on insects. A female lays 3-5 eggs.

Distribution: Its range extends from N Africa to Turkey, Syria and Iraq; with a vertical distribution to 1000 m. One of its subspecies, **A. b. euphraticus** BOULENGER, 1919 inhabits the sandy banks of the Euphrates River in SE Anatolia.



45A. *Acanthodactylus poskianus*



45B. *Acanthodactylus boskianus*, juvenile