

*Acanthodactylus haasi* LEVITON & ANDERSON, 1967  
Haas's Fringe-toed Lizard

### Synonymy

None.

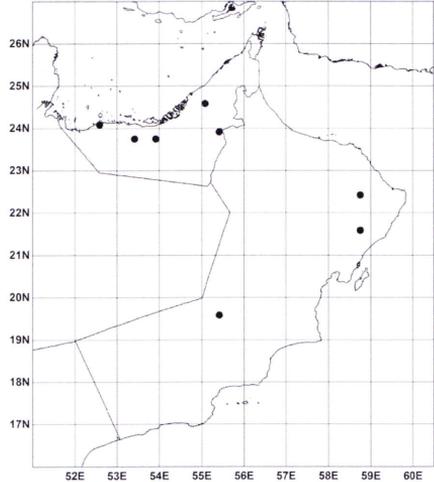
**Range.** Arabian Peninsula including northern and eastern Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman.

**Size.** Up to 65 mm SVL. Tail more than twice the length of the body.

**Identification.** A small species of fringe-toed lizard of slender build. The snout is moderately pointed and not swollen in the nasal region. One row of granules between supraoculars and superciliaries. There are four longitudinal rows of scales along the third and fourth fingers. Subdigital scales with several keels. Pectination on toes not well-developed. Subocular usually separate from the lip. Five upper labials anterior to centre of eye. Temporals weakly keeled. Dorsal scales fairly fine, feebly keeled on nape and body, 36–44 at mid-body. Twelve (occasionally 14) ventral scale rows at mid-body.

Juveniles are more strongly striped than adults. A pale lateral stripe bordered by dark stripes, starting at the temporal region and progressing along the flanks above the limbs and onto the tail, is conspicuous. This stripe may contain pale spots. The central dorsum is buff, mottled with darker markings. The pale stripes may contain reddish spots which continue onto the back of the head. The tail is sandy yellow, stronger yellow in juveniles and a yellow tinge may pervade the feet. The head is sandy, flecked with grey. The back ground-colour is cream to buff. The chin and throat may be tinged with yellow, while the belly is white.

**Biology.** A diurnal, ground-dwelling lacertid. Active from mid-morning until early afternoon even on hot days, with a further period of activity in late afternoon. May not appear during cooler winter days. On soft sand they run with the body held high off the sand and the tail curved upwards. Characteristically within this genus, *A. haasi* spends much of its time within small bushes, where it climbs sinuously and feeds on small insects. This scansorial behaviour probably allows the extended activity duration





Figs. 216–217: *Acanthodactylus baasi*, 30 km west of Al Ghaftain guest house, northern Dhofar.

on hot days by getting off the hot sand, and also gives access to insect prey. They dig burrows at the base of small shrubs.

**Habitat.** Vegetated sandy plains and low dunes.

**Distribution.** Localised and uncommon in widely scattered localities in Abu Dhabi emirate, the Wahiba Sands and the southern fringes of the Rubh al Khali.

**Pertinent references.** ARNOLD 1983, GALLAGHER & ARNOLD 1988, LEVITON & ANDERSON 1967, ROSS 1989a, SALVADOR 1982.