



with undivided lamellae. Tail slightly shorter than body, flattened, with rounded skin lappets on its edges. Head large, depressed, with skin flaps behind corners of mouth; eyes large, with vertical pupils. Skin finely granular. Coloration highly cryptic, light gray or brownish-gray, with three wavy, dark bands from axilla to groin; tail banded. Thin dark interorbital band present. Undersides creamy-yellowish, with occasional darker spots. Iris bronzed gray.

**Ecology & Habitat:** Inhabits dry evergreen and deciduous forests, including disturbed areas in lowland and hilly areas at elevations up to 900 m a. s. l.; sometimes encountered in human settlements. **Activity:** Nocturnal, arboreal, scansorial; very secretive. Able to “parachute” using its dermal appendages to escape predators. **Diet:** unstudied.

**Reproduction:** Unstudied.

**Confusing species:** *Ptychozoon lionotum*\*.

**Notes:** In some sources possibly confused with *P. lionotum*.

**References:** BROWN, 1999; BOBROV & SEMENOV, 2008; NGUYEN *et al.*, 2009; DAS, 2010.

## Family Lacertidae—True lizards

Lacertids, widely known as “typical” lizards, are mostly small-sized, diurnal, terrestrial or arboreal reptiles with well-developed legs, a pleurodont dentition and usually movable eyelids. Their head is covered with large shields underlaid with osteoderms, the body usually bears small granular scales on dorsum and large rectangular scales on venter. Tail-dropping is a common defensive strategy in these lizards. Their feeding habits are extremely various. Most lacertids are oviparous, although ovoviviparity is observed in some species. Several species are parthenogenetic with an all-female reproduction mode.

Lacertids, numbering more than 320 known species, are widely distributed throughout Europe, Asia and Africa, from the tropics to very high latitudes. In Southeast Asia they are represented by a single genus; 4 species are currently recorded in Vietnam.

### *Takydromus sexlineatus* DAUDIN, 1802

#### Asian grass lizard—Liu diu chi

**Size:** SVL up to 70 mm, CL up to 290 mm.

**Identification:** Strongly keeled scales; large shields on head; tail about four times longer than body; single femoral pore; 3 pairs of chin shields.



Fig. 210: *Takydromus sexlineatus* showing its enormous tail length, Dong Nai.

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Fig. 211: *Takydromus sexlineatus*, Dong Nai.

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Fig. 212: *Takydromus sexlineatus*, Dong Nai.

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**Distribution:** India, southern China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia.

**Description:** Body slender; limbs moderate; tail very long, slender. Head oblong, with long narrowed snout. Dorsum with 4–6 longitudinal rows of large keeled scales forming low ridges. Large and keeled scales on venter and tail, small and granular scales on flanks. Head covered with large plate-like shields, forehead rugose. Coloration variable, from grayish to chocolate brown on dorsum, with more or less well-delineated creamy, yellow, or green paravertebral stripes from orbit to tail base; dark dorsolateral stripe from snout tip to hind limbs. Sides of head, belly and flanks yellowish, pale or bright green. Light ocellate pattern on upper flanks often present.

**Ecology & Habitat:** Inhabits open grassy areas or forest edges in lowlands and mountains at elevations up to 2,660 m a. s. l., common in rural areas. **Activity:** Diurnal, usually observed climbing on bushes or grass; active mostly during the rainy season (May–November). **Diet:** Insects (termites, flies), millipedes.

**Reproduction:** Oviparous, with 2–4 eggs ( $10-11 \pm 6-7$  mm) per clutch. Incubation takes 47–62 days, juveniles measure about 23 mm.

**Confusing species:** *Takydromus madaensis*.

**Notes:** Vietnamese populations belong to the subspecies *T. s. ocellatus*. The recently described species *Takydromus madaensis* BOBROV, 2013 from Dong Nai Province can be distinguished from *T. sexlineatus* by 4 pairs of chin shields and separated parietals.

**References:** BOBROV & SEMENOV, 2008; NGUYEN *et al.*, 2009; DAS, 2010; BOBROV, 2013; NEMES *et al.*, 2013.