

**NEW SCINCID LIZARD OF THE GENUS *SPHENOMORPHUS*
(REPTILIA, SCINCIDAE), FROM JAVA**

by

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ABSTRACT

Sphenomorphus puncticentralis n.sp. is described based on a single specimen from Baturaden, Central Java, and is considered to belong to the variegatus species. The scincid lizard genus *Sphenomorphus* is represented by five species, i.e. *S. temminckii*, *S. necopinatum*, *S. vanheurni*, *S. florensis* and *S. sanctum*. The occurrence of a new species in Java seems to be unlikely. However, during a field trip to Central Java in 1979, a skink specimen was collected, captured on a small tree in an open secondary forest during morning hours. The skink turned out to be an undescribed species of the genus *Sphenomorphus*. Effort to get additional specimens, a second trip to the same locality in 1986 failed since the original habitat has changed into an *Agathis* forest. Despite of scarcity of specimens description is given hereunder based on a single specimen.

This new skink is described as *Sphenomorphus puncticentralis* based on the presence of the black spot on the dorsal scales on the paravertebral line region.

Sphenomorphus puncticentralis n.sp.
(Fig. 1 a-b)

Body cylindrical with slender tail, limb well developed and strongly overlapping when depressed along the body, pentadactyle. Length hind limbs about two-third of snout-vent length, forelimbs about to reach tip of snout, head width 6 mm, head length to posterior edge of ear opening 11 mm, depth of head 4 mm, length of orbit 3 mm, snout-vent 45 mm and tail 84 mm.

Alpha palate, palatine and pterogoid meeting the midline, no anterior projecting ectopterygoid process, infraorbital vacuity bordered by palatine, pterygoid and ectopterygoid no palatal fingerlike process in midline. Nine premaxillary teeth, maxillae with

26 teeth on each side, mandibulae with 24 teeth on each side, meckelian canal closed. Rostral about twice wider than deep, projecting well on dorsolateral surface of snout, portion visible from above about half internasal length; nostril pierced in a single nasal, situated posteroventrally; no supranasal; frontonasal broader long, in contact with rostral, forming suture more than one half frontonasal length, not in contact with frontal; prefrontals meeting in midline. Frontal smaller than supra ocular region, slightly shorter than frontoparietal and interparietal together measured along midline, obtusely pointed posteriorly, in contact with first three supraoculars; five supraoculars, eleven supraciliaries, paired frontoparietal, bordering third, fourth and fifth supraoculars, larger than interparietal; interparietal moderately large, enclosed posteriorly by parietal and internuchal; internuchal smaller than body scales. Subocular completely separate eye from supralabials; single anterior loreal, twice higher than long, middle loreal nearly twice longer than high, separated from orbit by preocular and suboculars; preocular not bordered by supraocular; separated by first supraciliary; subocular bordering third to sixth supralabials, seven supralabials, first and sixth opposite eye aperture. Lower eyelid scaly; a nictitating membrane with two black lines. Small temporable, lower much smaller; ear opening oval, moderate, forming angle of 60° with imaginary midlateral line, smaller than palpebral disk, without lobules, tympanum sunken below skin surface. Seven infra labials, mental large, suture with infra labials and postmental forming straight line; single anterior postmental followed by two large paired scales and single azygous scale in midline. Single pair of nuchals.

Body scale striated, without keels, paravertebral scales only slightly broader than adjacent rows, but notably one and one half time broader than ventrale; 64 scales from occiput to rump just above vent or 61 scales to posterior edge of hind limb, 29 scale rows around midbody, scutellation of tail resembling that of body, except midsubcaudal broadened, adjacent scales also broadened, but less prominent; two distinct enlarged preanal scales. Subdigital lamellae smooth, 25 scales beneath fourth toe, dorsally with one row at distal part, three rows nearly along total toe, dorsally with one row at distal part, three rows nearly along total toe length and proximally in four of five rows.

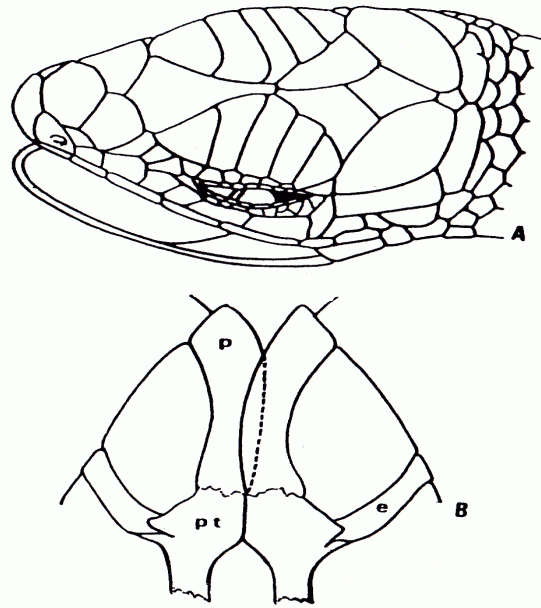


Figure 1. *Sphenorhynchus puncticentralis* new species

- A. Dorsolateral view of head of the holotype, MZB (*Lacertilia*) 1651.
 B. Ventral view of the palatal element of the holotype.
 p - palatine, pt - pterygoid, and e - ectopterygoid.

Coloration : In preserved specimens dorsum lightbrown with 14 blackish spots on paravertebral region, covering from three to five scales. Dorsal surface of fore and hind limbs, and flanks blackish, mottled with small white and light brown spots, covering one to two scales. Flanks have more black scales than brown ones dorsally, more white scales than black toes ventrally; black part of the flanks

commencing from orbit through above tympanum to dorsal part of hind limbs. Tail brown with wavy darker spots on lateral sides, edged with dark brown spots which forms continuous brown line. Toes of fore and hind limbs with brown and white rings. Dorsal part of head slightly darker than body, supraocular scale with black edges. Supra and infra labials with black spots, five to six spots along each jaw. All ventral scales immaculated with white (light yellow or creamy in living specimen), except palms and scales, which are dull black. Dorsal scales iridescent when exposed to light.

Holotype : deposited in the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense, Bogor. Lac. no. 1651, an adult male, collected from Baturraden, southern slope of Mt. Slamet, 3428 m) 7°30'S, 109°30'E, 15 km north of Purwokerto, Central Java, Indonesia, 700 m, in a secondary grown forest, by Djoko T. Iskandar, September 1979.

This new species is closely related to the Javan species *S. florensis* and *S. sanctus* with 27-29 and 25-30 subdigital lamellae respectively, *S. puncticentralis* has 25, and the prefrontal meets in the midline. This three species are in class IV of Brongersma (1942) agreeing to Geer and Parker (1967) diagnosis, *S. puncticentralis* may be assigned to the *variegatus* species group, judging from the well developed digits and limbs, the contact of the frontal with the three anterior supraocular and the number of supraoculars (generally five). However, the presence of the single anterior loreal, the absence of the supranasal and the few scales around the body, *S. puncticentralis* could also be placed in the *fasciatus* species group. Skull osteology such as in the work of Greer (1970 & 1974) and Fuha (1967 & 1969) is necessary to allocate this new species to the most proper group; after examining the palatal region of the skull, it is found that the octopterygoid has no projection, which would exclude the palatal ramus of the pterygoid from its position on the edge of the infra orbital. Based on this founding *S. puncticentralis* is more reasonably placed in the *variegatus* species group. In the group *S. puncticentralis* has the lowest number of scalerows around the mid body. In view of its coloration *S. puncticentralis* is most similar to *S. tenuis* from East Australia or to *Lobulia brongersmai* from New Guinea. It differs from the *S. tenuis* in having five pairs of supraoculars (four in *S. tenuis*), the prefrontal is broadly in contact (slightly or not in contact in *S. tenuis*) and the

immaculate ventral scales (series of brown flecks on the throat and chest in *S. tenuis*).

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