

GERRHOSAUROIDAE

Gerrhosaurus typicus (Smith, 1837) Karoo Plated Lizard

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Two Karoo Plated Lizards, *Gerrhosaurus typicus*, were observed during a herpetofaunal survey in Koeberg Private Nature Reserve, Western Cape Province, South Africa. The first specimen was observed, captured, and released on 23 October 2018 at a site (33°38'3.8"S; 18°25'8.9"E; ~46 m asl) that had been cleared of alien vegetation, leaving behind only natural Cape Flats Dune Strandveld. The individual measured 100 mm + 95 mm in length (although the tail was truncated) and weighed 31.7 g (using a tape measure and digital pocket scale, respectively). It was not photographed. The second specimen (Fig. 1) was found on 26 October 2018 at a site (33°39'4.4"S; 18°26'51.2"E; ~50 m asl) that had been completely burnt about three years prior, but has since regrown with natural Cape Flats Dune Strandveld vegetation. This second individual measured 100 mm + 190 mm and weighed 34.3 g. Both lizards were

light brown in colour with scattered dark spots and a distinctive pair of white lateral stripes. Prefrontals were separated, while the frontonasal and rostral were in contact. Dorsal scales were keeled and in 23 longitudinal rows. Ventral plates were in 10 longitudinal rows and glandular scales were present on either side of the cloaca in rows of 15. The specimens differ from *G. flavigularis* on the basis of the contact between the frontonasal and rostral scales, the higher number of ventral scale rows (*G. flavigularis* has eight rows), and overall colouration (Branch 1998).

Bates et al. (2014) indicate that *G. typicus* occurs within the Western Cape, but appears to be absent along the west coast south of Langebaan. Our records extend the western edge of the distribution of this species significantly southwards approximately 70 km from both the nearest known records at quarter-degree cells 3218DC and 3319CB. To our knowledge, the Koeberg specimens are the first records of *G. typicus* within the City of Cape Town. Individuals are known to burrow, making them hard to detect (Loveridge 1942), which might account for the low number of locality records and gaps in its distribution range Bates et al. (2014).

The two new records along the west

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Figure 1. Karoo Plated Lizard (*Gerrhosaurus typicus*) from Koeberg Private Nature Reserve, Western Cape, South Africa. Photo: Silindokuhle Tokota.

coast provide a valuable addition to our knowledge of the distribution of *G. typicus* within the greater Cape Town region and suggest that its range extends further down the west coast than previously thought.

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SCINCIDAE

Feylinia currori

Gray, 1845

Curror's Limbless Skink

O.S.G. PAUWELS

An adult individual of the fossorial skink *Feylinia currori* was collected by Patrick Derleyn (then based in Bujumbura) on 23 April 1976 in "Musigati, province Bubanza, Burundi." Musigati, whose approximate geographic coordinates are 3°04'06.5"S 29°27'40.7"E, lies at about 1530 m asl in north-western Burundi, about 25 km east of the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and about 30 km south of the border with Rwanda. The skink specimen was entered in July 1976 in the herpetological collections of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and received the register number RBINS 18731. It had remained unidentified until I examined it in March 2019.

It shows a snout-vent length of 231 mm. The tail is partly detached, obviously as a pre-mortem caudal autotomy given the constriction at the autotomy site. The tail part still in place measures 11 mm, the detached part 66 mm; the total tail length is thus 77 mm and the total length 308 mm (ratio total length/tail length 4.0). All scales are smooth. The rostral is large, bordered laterally by the left and right first supralabials, and posteriorly by two supranasals. The nostril is horizontally elongate, pierced in the rostral, posteriorly linked by a furrow to the first supralabial. Although poorly contrasted, the eye is visible through the ocular scale. There are five supralabials on each side. The third supralabial is in contact with the ocular scale on each side. There are three infralabials on each side. The large mental is followed by a wide postmental in contact with the first infralabial on each side. There are 24 scale rows around body at one head length behind head, 26 scale rows around midbody, and 22 scale rows at one head length before cloaca. There are 142 longitudinal rows of scales between the postmental (not included) and the precloacal scales (not included); 134 longitudinal rows of scales between the post-parietals (not included) and a point above the cloacal slit. There are two enlarged precloacal scales. After more than 40 years in preservative, each body scale appears speckled with black in its central part, more intensely on the dorsum than on the belly. The dark area