

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Watkins-Colwell, G.J., H.M. Smith, E.A. Liner, and D. Chiszar.
1998. *Sceloporus samcolemanni*.

***Sceloporus samcolemanni* Smith and Hall**
Coleman's Bunch Grass Lizard

Sceloporus scalaris: Dunn 1936:473 (part; one specimen of the two reported from Hda. Pablillo, "above Galeana," Nuevo León, ANSP 20005, is a *Sceloporus p. parvus*; the other, ANSP 20004, is the first reported *S. samcolemanni*, although under a different name).

Sceloporus scalaris slevini: Smith 1939:349 (part).

Sceloporus goldmani: Liner and Olson 1973:54.

Sceloporus scalaris samcolemanni Smith and Hall 1974:100.
Type locality "between Providencia and La Paz, Nuevo León, Mexico." Holotype, Univ. Michigan Mus. Zool. (UMMZ) 124670, an adult female, collected by P.H. Litchfield on July 16, 1960 (examined by authors). See Remarks.

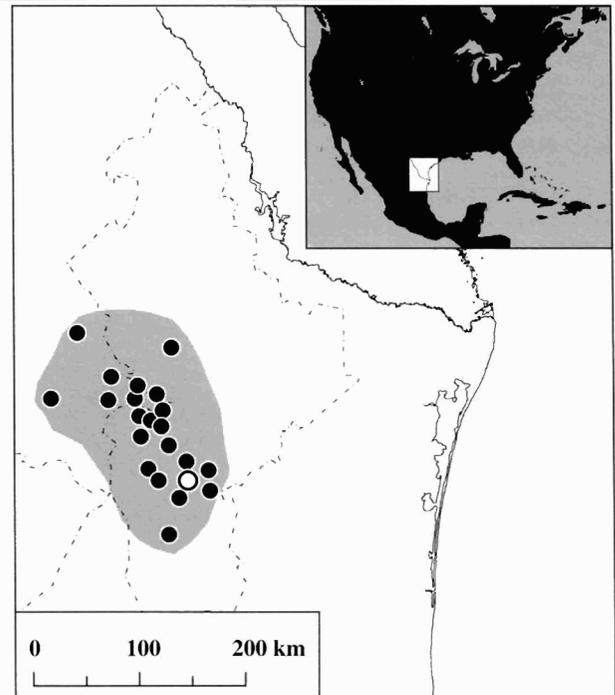
Sceloporus samcolemanni: Smith, Watkins-Colwell, Liner, and Chiszar 1996:70. Elevation to species rank.

• **CONTENT.** No subspecies are currently recognized.

• **DEFINITION.** *Sceloporus samcolemanni* is a small member of the genus, maximum SVL = 56 mm (*vide* Liner and Dixon 1992), characterized by the following: tibia 52–89% of snout-occiput length (Liner and Dixon 1992); dorsal scales 41–60 (Thomas and Dixon 1976); femoral pores 24–38 (Thomas and Dixon 1976) with the two rows in contact or separated by one or two scales; lateral scale rows parallel, not oblique; two postrostrals; usually (87% of specimens examined) a single canthal on a side; scales of second pair of postmentals always separated.

The gular region is barred or mottled and the dorsum is multicolored and patterned; the patternless morph common in related species is not known to occur in *S. samcolemanni*. The species is sexually dichromatic. Males usually exhibit an orange lateroventral stripe and blue belly patches; one or both are combined with several dark transverse bars at least faintly discernible (Fig. 1), whereas females lack these features. Both sexes exhibit the following: a series of dark paravertebral blotches; a dorsolateral series of dark blotches, light-bordered posteriorly; a prominent dorsolateral light line; a less distinct lateral light line; a series of dark blotches between the two light lines much like the paravertebral blotches, but smaller. The pattern is brighter in females than in males (Fig. 2).

• **DIAGNOSIS.** *Sceloporus samcolemanni* is an oviparous but



MAP. Distribution of *Sceloporus samcolemanni*; the type locality is indicated by the circle, other known localities are marked by dots.



FIGURE 1. Male *Sceloporus samcolemanni*, EAL 5024, 43 mm SVL, from 1.1 road miles from Las Mimbres at the junction of the San Juan de Mimbres road, Nuevo León, showing the gular bars characteristic of both sexes and the lateral abdominal semeions characteristic of males. The parenthesis and arrows denote the blue patches, the bracket the salmon area. Note the distinctive dark transverse lines in the latter area.

egg-retaining member of the *Sceloporus scalaris* species group. Other members of the complex regularly having one canthal



FIGURE 2. Gravid female (left) and adult male *Sceloporus samcolemanni* from Ojo de Agua, Pablillo, Nuevo León. Note the prominent lateral light line of the female and the transverse dark lines below the weak lateral light line of the male.

can be distinguished as follows: *S. chaneysi* lacks dark gular bars and blue abdominal semeanis in adult males (only red present); *S. slevini* lacks gular dark bars; *S. scalaris unicanthalis* has dark crossbars on the purely blue (no red) abdominal semeanis, is larger (maximum SVL 63 mm), frequently (40% vs. 0%) has the second pair of postmentals in contact, and usually has irregular frontonasals (84% vs. 8%; i.e., frontonasals entire and in contact with each other in *samcolemani*).

• **DESCRIPTIONS.** The only complete description of *Sceloporus samcolemani* is the original by Smith and Hall (1974).

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Black and white photographs are in Smith and Hall (1974) and in Liner and Dixon (1992).

• **DISTRIBUTION.** The general range of *S. samcolemani* is the mountains of extreme southeastern Coahuila and southern central Nuevo León. The species is strictly a montane form occurring at elevations from 2134 m (Pablillo, Nuevo León) to 3293 m (Cerro Potosí, Nuevo León), inhabiting relatively open areas in pine-oak woodlands. These lizards often are associated with grass tufts and flat rocks which are used for refugia.

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** All significant literature or information is cited in the preceding paragraphs, except as follows: a comparison with *Sceloporus chaneysi* and a locality map (Liner and Dixon 1992), a comparison with *S. scalaris brownorum* (Smith et al. 1997), and other maps (Smith and Hall 1974, Thomas and Dixon 1976). The species is mentioned (as a subspecies of *Sceloporus scalaris*) in Smith and Smith (1976), Kluge (1984), Guillette and Smith (1985), Smith (1987), Smith and Smith (1993), and Liner (1994).

• **REMARKS.** Smith and Hall (1974) erroneously referred specimens of *Sceloporus s. scalaris* reported by Martin (1955) from the Gómez Farías region, Tamaulipas to *S. samcolemani*. Although Thomas and Dixon (1976) rejected all subspecies of *Sceloporus scalaris*, at least Dixon later (in Liner and Dixon 1992) accepted all four then recognized (*S. s. scalaris*, *S. s. samcolemani*, *S. s. slevini*, *S. s. unicanthalis*). Smith (1974) regarded *S. samcolemani* as a distinct species, but it was not formally elevated to species rank until Smith et al. (1996) did so on the basis of its complete isolation from all close relatives (*S. chaneysi* intervenes geographically between *S. samcolemani* and *S. scalaris*) and because of its categorical distinction from all other members of its species group.

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The name *samcolemani* honors Dr. Sam Coleman who wrote programs used by H.M. and R.B. Smith for processing data on the herpetology of México.

• **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.** We are much indebted for the loan of vital comparative material and provision of pertinent counsel and information to our colleagues at the following institutions and collections (acronyms from Leviton et al. 1985): AMNH, BCB (Bryce C. Brown private collection, housed in SMBU), BYU, CAS, FMNH, KU, LACM, LSUMZ, MCZ, MVZ, SMBU, TCWC, UCM, UIMNH, UMMZ, USNM, UTA, and UTEP.

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GREGORY J. WATKINS-COLWELL, Department of Biology, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT 06432-1000 (watking@ Sacredheart.edu); **HOBART M. SMITH**, Department of Environmental, Population and Organismic Biology and Museum, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0334 (hsmith@colorado.edu); **ERNEST A. LINER**, 310 Malibu Boulevard, Houma, LA 70364-2598; and **DAVID CHISZAR**, Department of Psychology, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0345.

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