

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

DIXON, JAMES R. 1970. *Coleonyx reticulatus*.***Coleonyx reticulatus* Davis and Dixon
Reticulated gecko**

Coleonyx reticulatus Davis and Dixon, 1958:151. Type-locality, "Black Gap, 50 miles south-southeast of Marathon, 2,500 ft., Brewster County, Texas." Holotype, Texas Cooperative Wildlife Coll. 12855, a female, collected on 20 June, 1956 by Charles K. Winkler.

- CONTENT. The species is monotypic.
 - DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. *Coleonyx reticulatus* is a large gecko (snout-vent length 84 mm, tail 58 mm regenerated) with 13 irregular longitudinal rows of dorsal tubercles. There are 24 lamellae beneath the fourth finger and 31 beneath the fourth toe, and only the tips of the claws extend beyond the sheath scales. The dorsum has a profusion of small dark spots and reticulations on a light tan ground color.
- These characters, except for the color, distinguish *C. reticulatus* from all other species of *Coleonyx*. *Coleonyx elegans*

and *C. mitratus* have 19 to 23 longitudinal rows of dorsal tubercles, 18 to 20 fourth toe lamellae, and 14 to 17 fourth finger lamellae. Enlarged dorsal tubercles are absent in the much smaller species *C. brevis* and *C. variegatus*.

- DESCRIPTIONS. The original description (Davis and Dixon, 1958) is the only detailed account available.
- ILLUSTRATIONS. The only illustration of this species is a photograph presented by Davis and Dixon (1958) showing a dorsal view of the holotype in comparison with a specimen of *Coleonyx elegans*.
- DISTRIBUTION. *Coleonyx reticulatus* is known only from the type-locality.
- FOSSIL RECORD. None.
- PERTINENT LITERATURE. The only published reference to *Coleonyx reticulatus*, other than the original description (Davis and Dixon, 1958), is a brief mention of some of its osteological features by Kluge (1962).
- ETYMOLOGY. The name *reticulatus* (Latin, net-like), refers to the dorsal color pattern.

COMMENT

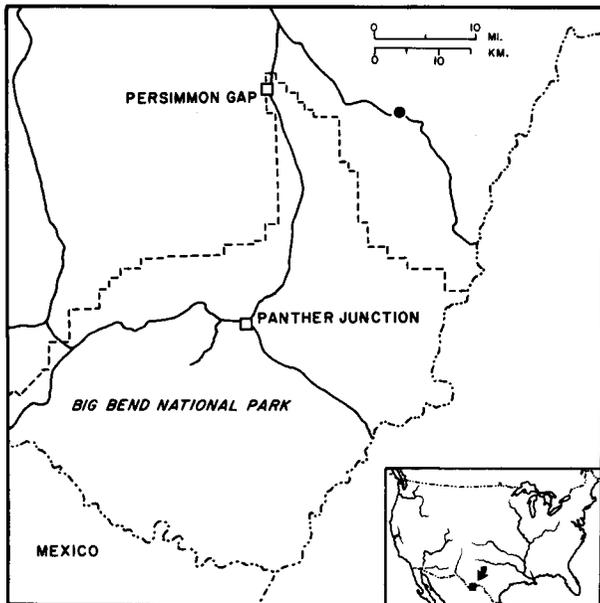
The description of a large, tubercular *Coleonyx* from a single specimen collected in the northern part of the Chihuahuan Desert has led to speculation that *C. reticulatus* is an aberrant individual of *C. brevis*, rather than a unique desert species related to the tropical forest geckos *C. elegans* and *C. mitratus*. Arnold G. Kluge (pers. comm.) who examined the holotype and radiographs of it, indicated that osteologically it appears to be an exceptionally large specimen of *C. brevis*. The external characters of *C. reticulatus* are far outside the known parameters of *C. brevis*, and it seems best to retain *C. reticulatus* as a distinct if enigmatic species.

LITERATURE CITED

- Davis, William B., and James R. Dixon. 1958. A new *Coleonyx* from Texas. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 71:149-152.
- Kluge, Arnold G. 1962. Comparative osteology of the eublepharid lizard genus *Coleonyx* Gray. J. Morph. 110 (3): 299-332.
- JAMES R. DIXON, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS 77843.

Published 16 January 1970 by the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. Publication is supported by National Science Foundation grant G24231.

Primary editor for this account, Clarence J. McCoy.



MAP. The solid symbol marks the type-locality. The squares indicate reference points in the Big Bend area of Texas.