

Genus *Ichnotropis* Peters, 1854—rough-scaled sand lizards

Ichnotropis is a small genus of subtropical lizards occurring in mesic to arid savanna. The genus is endemic to Africa, but only one of its six species (Uetz 2012), namely *I. capensis*, occurs in the *Atlas* region. This species has a large range and may be locally abundant. *Ichnotropis* is the sister taxon to *Meroles* (Mayer & Pavlicev 2007). *Ichnotropis capensis* and *Meroles squamulosus* (until recently contained in the genus *Ichnotropis*—see Edwards *et al.* 2012, 2013a and Engleder *et al.* 2013) are sym-

patric in large parts of their ranges and their life cycles are staggered so that juveniles and adults of the two species are present at different times of the year (Broadley 1979). These two species are regarded as 'annuals' as they mature quickly (5–8 months), live for less than a year, and die soon after breeding (females lay one or two clutches of 3–12 eggs) (Branch 1998). *Ichnotropis capensis* is not known to be threatened, except by urbanisation, and is classified as Least Concern.

Ichnotropis capensis (A. Smith, 1838)

**ORNATE ROUGH-SCALED LIZARD;
CAPE ROUGH-SCALED LIZARD**

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Global: Least Concern

Taxonomy: The status of the isolated population of this species in Maputaland and adjacent southern Mozambique should be assessed.

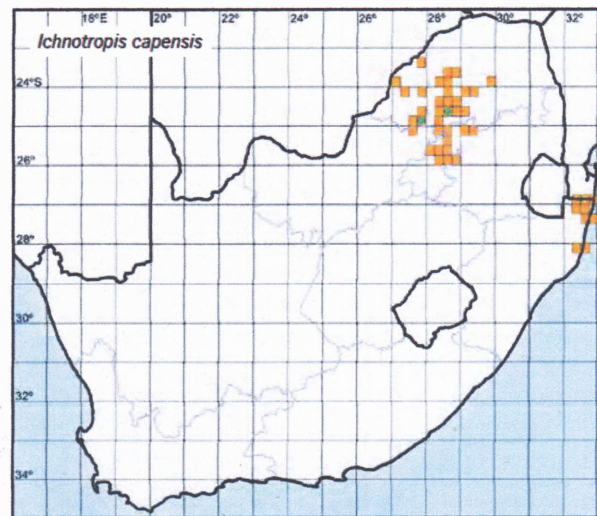
Distribution: Endemic to the southern half of Africa. Found from Angola and Zambia south and east across the Kalahari sands through Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Limpopo, northern Gauteng and adjacent western Mpumalanga. Also occurs in Maputaland, the KwaZulu-Natal coast and southern Mozambique (FitzSimons 1943; Branch 1998).

Habitat: Inhabits hot sandy areas with open vegetation separated by patches of bare soil.

Biome: Savanna.

Assessment rationale: Has a wide distribution and occurs in several large protected areas. Apart from the negative effects on its habitat by urbanisation in a few areas, there are no serious known threats.

Conservation measures: None recommended.



Ichnotropis capensis—Caprivi Strip, Namibia

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