

Scelarcis perspicillata
(DUMÉRIE & BIBRON, 1839)

LC

Common names: Moroccan Rock Lizard (E), Lézard à lunettes (F), Lagartija de Marruecos, Lagartija moras (S).



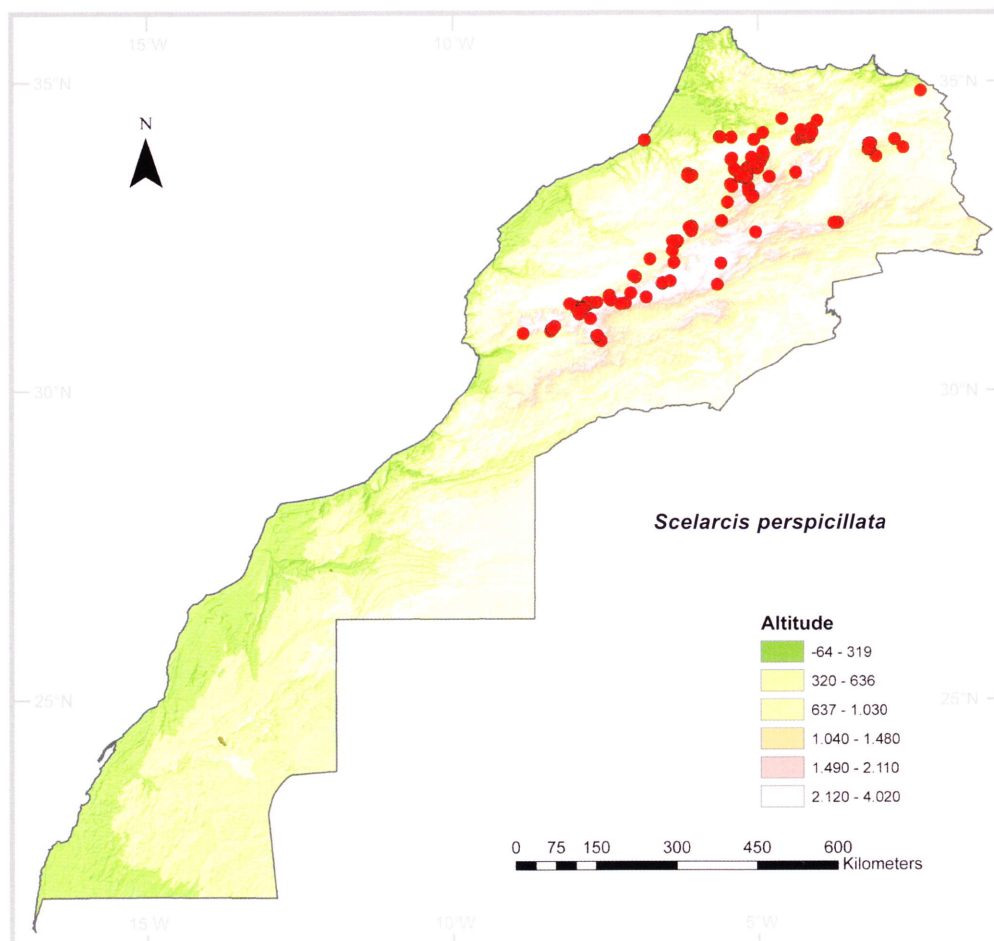
Fig. 544: A *Scelarcis perspicillata* of the “chabanaudi” morphotype in the mating season. Meknes. M. SCHWEIGER

Range: Morocco and northwestern coastal Algeria. Introduced to Menorca Island (Spain) and Habibas Islands (Algeria).

Distribution in Morocco: Distributed mainly at medium to high altitudes across the High Atlas and Middle Atlas Mountains. Likely introduced in Fès and Rabat. Occurs also in the massif of Debdou and parts of the Hauts-Plateaux. *Scelarcis perspicillata* has recently been discovered in the Beni Snassen Massif (ESCORRIZA & DEL MAR COMAS 2007, CROCHET *et al.* 2015).

Altitude: 30–2,650 m.

Identification: Small lizard up to about 60 mm SVL. Body quite flattened, head relatively high in the temporal region or looking flattened depending on age and populations. Has a transparent palpebral disc in the lower eyelid. Dorsal patterns with three primary colour morphs identified as subspecies: *Scelarcis perspicillata perspicillata*, small and flattened, dark with many small light spots, sometimes uniformly bronze; *S. p. pellegrini*, medium-sized with two light dorsolateral stripes on a spotted dorsum, tail yellow in the Middle Atlas, blue in the High Atlas; *S. p. chabanaudi*, large and robust with shiny light dots on a dark (black) background. In the massif of Debdou and the Hauts-Plateaux, occurs a robust form with a pale sandy colouration with pale, small dots. BONS & GENIEZ (1996) assigned this “bronze morph” to the nominotypical subspecies. Tail bright blue, green or yellow in hatchlings depending on the populations. Ventral scales in 10–12 longitudinal rows.





Figs. 545–546: *Scelarcis perspicillata*, male and female of the “bronze” morphotype. Debdou.



Figs. 547–548: *Scelarcis perspicillata*, subadult individual of the “pellegrini” morphotype. Jebel Zalagh.

G. MARTÍNEZ DEL MÁRMOL



Fig. 549: *Scelarcis perspicillata*, specimen with blueish tail. Jebel Sirwa.
D. SALVI



Fig. 550: *Scelarcis perspicillata*, female of the "chabanaudi" morphotype.
Boumia. P. GENIEZ

Habitat: A rupicolous species found mainly on vertical rock faces in the vicinity of water or on stone walls in rural areas. Frequent also on dry rocks at high altitudes. Prefers humid and subhumid climates, with a few occurrences in arid and semiarid regions.

Biology: An excellent climber, able to run on vertical bare rocks. Active during most of the year, with peaks in the morning and at dusk during the summer. Mainly insectivorous with sporadic consumption of plant matter. Local diet variability is probably related to trophic availability (PERERA *et al.* 2006). The striped and spotted forms seem to have different antipredator behaviours

(CARRETERO *et al.* 2006). Females lay one to three eggs in June, that hatch in August (DOUMERGUE 1901).

Remarks: Genetic data provide no support for any of the currently recognised subspecies (PERERA *et al.* 2007) but suggest that *S. perspicillata* could be a species complex containing at least two species: one in northeastern Morocco (region of Taza) comprising also those from Menorca (Balearic Islands) and probably the Algerian populations, and one in the rest of Morocco, reaching the region of Taza where "*pellegrini*" and "*chabanaudi*" occur in sympatry (PERERA *et al.* 2007).



Fig. 551: *Scelarcis perspicillata*, male of the "chabanaudi" morphotype. Oukaimeden.

M. BERRONEAU



Fig. 552: Detail of the throat of a "chabanaudi" male of *Scelarcis perspicillata* in the mating season. Jebel Tazzeke.

S. BOGAERTS



Fig. 553: *Scelarcis perspicillata*, mating of the "bronze" morphotype. Debdou.

D. SALVI