

Family Lacertidae OPPEL, 1811 — True lizards

Key to the Kenyan genera of true lizards

- 1a: A vertebral series of enlarged scales down the middle of the back 2
 1b: No vertebral series of enlarged scales down the middle of the back; dorsal scales roughly homogeneous 3
 2a: Tail strongly depressed and fringed laterally; in forest or woodland *Holaspis*
 2b: Tail cylindrical, not depressed or fringed; in arid lands *Philochortus*
 3a: Ventral scales keeled *Gastropholis*
 3b: Ventral scales smooth 4
 4a: Subdigital lamellae smooth or tubercular 5
 4b: Subdigital lamellae keeled 6
 5a: Nostril bordered by two or three nasals and the first labial scale, or separated from the latter by a narrow rim; mostly in highland grassland, woodland or forest *Adolfus*
 5b: Nostril bordered by two or three nasals only *Nucras*
 6a: Nostril bordered by 3–5 nasals and the first labial, or narrowly separated from the first labial scale *Latastia*
 6b: Nostril bordered by 2–4 nasals, well separated from the first labial 7
 7a: Ventral scales in six longitudinal rows *Heliobolus*
 7b: Ventral scales in 8–10 longitudinal rows *Pseuderemias*

Subfamily Eremiadiinae PARKER, 1961

Genus *Adolfus* STERNFELD, 1912 — Forest and alpine meadow lizards*Adolfus africanus* (BOULENGER, 1906)

Multi-scaled Forest Lizard or Boulenger's Forest Lizard

Description: Snout–vent length about 7 cm, total length about 20 cm. Build slender; body scales rhombic and keeled above, with the mid-dorsal scales being larger than on the flanks; neck collar present. The top of the head is metallic copper-bronze, and a continuous broad mid-dorsal stripe of the same colour and the width of the head extends down the entire back onto tail; a series of randomly distributed black spots within this stripe; a longitudinal series of round white spots borders the vertebral stripe laterally, with the spots coalescing into thin narrow stripes on the tail; body sides with dark chocolate-brown broad stripes from the sides of head to the tail; underside immaculate, lime-green.

Range: Clearings in Guineo-Congolian primary forest; recorded from the Kakamega Forest at Buyangu at about 1700 m a. s. l., where it is rare compared to the more common sympatric *A. jacksonii*.



Fig. 283: Multi-scaled Forest Lizard *Adolfus africanus*, Isecheno, Kakamega Forest.

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Fig. 284: Mt. Kenya Alpine Meadow Lizard *Adolfus alleni*, Old Moses Camp, Sirimon Route, Mt. Kenya National Park.

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Fig. 285: Mt. Kenya Alpine Meadow Lizard *Adolfus alleni*, Mt. Kenya.

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Fig. 286: Jackson's Forest Lizard *Adolfus jacksoni*, Mt. Elgon.

S. SPAWLS

Habits: On tree trunks and fallen logs. Probably lays eggs; feeds on insects and other arthropods.

Adolfus alleni (BARBOUR, 1914)

Mt. Kenya Alpine Meadow Lizard or Allen's Alpine Meadow Lizard

Description: Total length about 16 cm, tail about 65% the total. Head short; tail tapering smoothly; body scales keeled. Brown or olive above, with a broad dark vertebral stripe; two black-edged dorsolateral stripes, either lime, green or red-brown; flanks rufous; belly orange/white.

Range: In the alpine zone and moorlands around 3000–4500 m on Mt. Kenya, in grass tussocks above the treeline and in grasslands within the bamboo zone; also recorded at 2400 m in a Chogoria Forest glade below the bamboo zone.

Habits: Largely terrestrial and diurnal, in the grass tussocks of moorlands, where it mainly takes refuge; basking in open patches or on grass tussocks. Possibly oviparous; feeding on insects and other arthropods.

Conservation status: Near Threatened (NT).

Adolfus jacksoni (BOULENGER, 1899)

Jackson's Forest Lizard

Description: Snout–vent length about 9 cm, total length about 26 cm. Build fairly robust, tail long. Tail scales strongly keeled; a collar fold under the neck. Brown or