

*Sphaerodactylus rosaurae* Parker

*Sphaerodactylus rosaurae* was described by Parker (1940) on the basis of a single male specimen (BMNH 1938.10.4.1) collected on Isla de Elena by J. S. Colman. Since that time little additional material has come to light, and the existence of this sphaerodactyl has been essentially ignored. In the original description Parker (1940) compared *rosaurae* to the members of the *anthracinus* (= *scaber*) and *fantasticus* groups. *S. rosaurae* and the members of the *scaber* and *fantasticus* groups are all characterized by having the middorsal scales reduced in size (*rosaurae* and the *scaber* group members have a middorsal zone of granules).

The *scaber* group was reviewed by Schwartz (1961), who considered it to include three Cuban forms (*scaber*, *o. oliveri*, and *o. storeyae*), one Bahamian form (*a. anthracinus*), and one Hispaniolan form (*anthracinus copei*). In addition to a middorsal zone of granules, the members of the *scaber* group all have keeled and imbricate dorsal scales, smooth ventral and chest scales, and strong sexual dimorphism in color pattern. Members of the *fantasticus* group do not agree with the members of the *scaber* group in this combination of characters and were therefore excluded from the latter group by Schwartz (1961). Later, Schwartz and Thomas (1964) reviewed *S. copei*, which they considered not to be conspecific with *S. anthracinus*, and recognized four subspecies (*copei*, *enochrus*, *picturatus*, *cataplexis*) within *S. copei*, distinguished from one another primarily on the basis of female color pattern. At the same time they discussed the status of *S. anthracinus*, a nominal species originally described from "México," but considered by Barbour (1921) to be a species restricted to the Bahamas. Schwartz and Thomas (1964) felt it advisable, on the basis of the study of living material of *copei*, again to recognize *anthracinus* as a species distinct from *copei*.

Thomas (1968) again reviewed the *copei*-*anthracinus* tangle and suggested that *anthracinus* be considered a *nomen dubium*, inasmuch as the holotype is a unicolor male and therefore not assignable to any known West Indian population. The syntype series of *S. asper* from Andros Island in the Bahamas are also unicolor males. Barbour (1921) synonymized *asper* with *anthracinus*. Thomas further demonstrated that at least some new material from New Providence in the Bahamas was referable to *S. copei cataplexis*, otherwise known from the tip of the Tiburon Peninsula on Hispaniola. He also described an additional subspecies of *S. copei* (*polyommatus*) from Ile Grande Cayemite, off the north coast of the Tiburon Peninsula.

*Sphaerodactylus rosaurae* is a sphaerodactyl with a middorsal zone of granules (1 to 2 scales wide) and large keeled and slightly imbricate