

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Animal Abstract

Element Code: ARACJ02090

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Aspidoscelis neomexicanus* (Lowe and Zweifel, 1952)

COMMON NAME: New Mexico Whiptail

SYNONYMS: *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* Lowe and Zweifel, 1952
Aspidoscelis neomexicana (Lowe and Zweifel, 1952)
Cnemidophorus perplexus Baird and Girard 1852

OTHER COMMON NAMES: New Mexico Whiptail Lizard

FAMILY: Teiidae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Lowe and Zweifel, 1952. Bulletin of the Chicago Academy of Sciences 9:229-247.

TYPE LOCALITY: McDonald Ranch Headquarters, 4800 feet elevation, 8.7 miles west and 22.8 miles south of New Bingham Post Office, Socorro County, New Mexico.

TYPE SPECIMEN: MVZ 55807. Charles H. Lowe, Jr. 1947-08-02.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: There are 45 species in the genus *Aspidoscelis* (Uetz 2025), with two additional species generated in the lab by hybridization (Nicholson 2025). Uetz (2025) recognizes 25 species found in the United States, whereas Nicholson identifies 20 species from the U.S. (including the two hybrids generated in the lab). Nine species are found in Arizona (Holycross et al. 2022; Tom Jones, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Amphibians and Reptiles Program Manager, pers. comm. 2023, 2025).

Previously placed in the genus *Cnemidophorus* (Crother 2000, Collins and Taggart 2002). Reeder et al. (2002) examined phylogenetic relationships of the whiptail lizards of the genus *Cnemidophorus* based on a combined analysis of mitochondrial DNA, morphology, and allozymes. They determined that *Cnemidophorus* in the traditional sense is paraphyletic and thus in need of nomenclatural revision. Thus they resurrected *Aspidoscelis* for the clade composed of the species native to North America, while the whiptails from South America retain the genus *Cnemidophorus* and the treatment for this species became *A. neomexicana* (Reeder et al 2002, Crother et al. 2003).

C. neomexicanus was treated as a synonym of *C. perplexus* by some authors (Duellman et al. 1962, Wright 1971). The name *C. perplexus* has also been used for other species of *Cnemidophorus* lizards, but was generally restricted to this species with the description of *C. neomexicanus* (Wright 1971). The name *C. perplexus* was demonstrated to be based on a *C. neomexicanus* X *C. inornatus* hybrid by Wright and Lowe (1967), but the genealogy of the specimens was questioned and the identification of the *C. perplexus* lectotype as a hybrid was refuted by Taylor and Walker (1996). *Cnemidophorus perplexus* was a senior synonym of *C. neomexicanus* (Taylor and Walker 1996, Walker 1997). To promote nomenclatural stability because of the prevailing use of *C. neomexicanus*, Smith et al. (1997) proposed to the ICZN that *C. neomexicanus* be conserved and that *Cnemidophorus perplexus* be suppressed. This proposal was approved by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (1999).

The species was formerly treated as *Aspidoscelis neomexicana* (Crother 2017, Painter 2017, Murphy 2019). Tucker et al. (2016) interpreted *Aspidoscelis* as masculine rather than feminine, so the species epithet changed from the *neomexicana* to *neomexicanus*. This change has been implemented by Holycross et al. (2022), ITIS (2025), Nicholson (2025), and Uetz (2025).

DESCRIPTION:

Adults: The New Mexico Whiptail is a small to medium-sized lizard with adults ranging in size from 60–82 mm (2.4–3.2 in) snout-vent length (Christiansen 1971). This lizard is brown to black with a long, blue-tipped, gray-green tail and seven light longitudinal, dorsal stripes; the underside of the body is usually pale green to blue. This is the only whiptail in Arizona with a wavy mid-dorsal stripe (Holycross et al. 2022) that forks on the neck (Lowe and Zweifel 1952, Stebbins 2003). The paravertebral stripes are yellow-tan and wavy, while the lateral and dorsolateral stripes are cream-white to pale yellow and essentially straight-margined (Walker et al. 2016). There are small, light spots in the dark areas on the back and upper sides (Stebbins 2003). They have 71–80 granular dorsal scales and the supraocular semicircles (pair of curved rows of scales on the head) extend toward the snout separating the frontal supraocular from the 3rd and often the 2nd (Stebbins 2003). The postantibrachial and mesoptychial scales are not enlarged (Jones and Lovich 2009). There are reported occurrences of bifurcated tails (Bateman and Chung-MacCoubrey 2013).

Juveniles: Young have black base color body that contrasts with yellow stripes, and well-defined whitish spots in dark fields on the sides. The tail is greenish to greenish-blue with distinctive light stripes. (Lowe and Zweifel 1952, Stebbins 2003). Hatchlings are born with a bright blue tail that fades to a blue-gray in adults (Duellman and Zweifel 1962, Jones and Lovich 2009).

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: New Mexico Whiptails can be separated from other striped whiptails by the distinctive wavy middorsal line not present in other species (Murphy 2019). They can also be identified by the further anterior extent of suborbital scales far forward on the head and the greenish color of the tail (Jones and Lovich 2009). Stebbins (2003) also notes the well defined stripes with light white spots in dark fields on the sides.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Photo (Cole et al. 1988: Fig. 3)

Color photo (Degenhardt et al. 1996: Plate 67)

Color illustration (Stebbins 2003: Plate 38)

Color photos (Jones and Lovich 2009, pages 366–369)

Color photo (Murphy 2019, page 160)

Color photo (Holycross et al. 2022, page 93)

TOTAL RANGE: New Mexico Whiptails occur primarily in the Rio Grande Valley from near Española, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, southward to near Candelaria, Presidio County, Texas, a distance of approximately 5.5 degrees of latitude (Axtell 1966, Wright 1971, Cordes and Walker 2009). The range extends westward in southwestern New Mexico to west of Lordsburg, Hidalgo County (Axtell 1966). An isolated, introduced population occurs at Conchas Lake, San Miguel County, New Mexico, approximately 190 km east of the nearest Rio Grande Valley records (Leuck et al. 1981, Walker et al. 1992). There are introduced and established populations at Petrified National Forest in eastern Arizona (Persons and Wright 1999, Holycross et al. 2022) as well as in Utah in the northernmost part of Salt Lake City and a suburb south of Salt Lake City called Sandy City (Oliver and Wright 2007).

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Two small populations at Petrified Forest National Park, Apache County, probably introduced (Holycross et al 2022).

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

BIOLOGY: The New Mexico Whiptail is diurnal, with activity usually peaking in the mid-morning and late afternoon, avoiding the hottest part of the day (Holycross et al. 2022). It digs its own burrow where it lays its eggs, seeks shelter from the elements (e.g. extreme temperatures, storms, etc.), or hibernates (Degenhardt et al. 1996). New Mexico whiptails are active during the warmer months, with adults active through September, and hatchlings active until early October (Medica 1967, Christiansen 1971). Hibernation occurs from October through March, with individuals hibernating about 30 cm beneath the surface in narrow burrows, the entrances plugged with dirt (Christiansen 1969). Body temperatures may drop to 10° C during hibernation. Lizards will emerge from hibernation around April (Degenhardt et

al. 1996). New Mexico Whiptails have a nonlinear growth pattern with young animals having the highest growth rate and growth slowing as individuals mature. Shifts in energy allocation from growth to reproduction are the likely cause of the slowed growth (Bates et al. 2010). Individual lizards may live at least four years (Bateman et al. 2010).

Whiptails can move fast when escaping a potential predator, but their normal gait is irregular and jerky, characterized by occasional pauses where they lift and shake a single foot (Murphy 2019). Known predators of this species in New Mexico include Long-nosed Leopard Lizard (*Gambelia wislizenii*) (Degenhardt et al. 1996).

Parasites reported from New Mexico Whiptails include the cestode *Oochoristica bivitellobata*, larval spirurid nematode *Physaloptera* sp., oxyurid nematode *Pharyngodon warneri*, and an unidentified acanthocephalan cystacanth. Parasite prevalence was more than two-fold higher in northern New Mexico populations (35%) compared to southern Texas populations (14%) (McAllister 1990).

The New Mexico Whiptail is a diploid parthenogenetic species of hybrid origin, derived from hybridization between *A. marmoratus* (= *A. tigris*) and *A. inornata* (Cole et al. 1988, Reeder et al. 2002). Little genetic variation between individuals suggests that the species may have developed from a single ancestral female (Jones and Lovich 2009).

REPRODUCTION: The New Mexico Whiptail is parthenogenetic, which means that it is an asexual all-female lineage where hatchlings are clones of the mother (Maslin 1962, Duellman and Zweifel 1962). It exhibits low clonal diversity (Parker and Selander 1984). Females lay one or two clutches of 1–4 eggs in the summer (June and July), with eggs hatching in 40–60 days (Medica 1967, Christiansen 1971, Holycross et al. 2022). Approximately 25% of females may produce a second clutch in a single reproductive season (Christiansen 1971). Eggs are laid in a nest dug in the soil or underground. Eggs are smooth, leathery-shelled, and creamy white in color, about twice as long as wide (Degenhardt et al. 1996). Hatchlings first appear in mid- to late July and continue to be found in the population until early September (Christiansen 1971, Cordes and Walker 2009, Bateman et al. 2010). Individuals hatched in late summer likely do not reproduce until their third calendar year of life (Christiansen 1971).

FOOD HABITS: New Mexico Whiptails feed on a variety of insects and insect larvae such as ants, termites, beetles, moths, and grasshoppers (Medica 1967, Holycross et al. 2022), and have also been reported to feed on spiders (Medica 1967). There is variation in food habits between dry and wet years, with moths and larvae increasing and ants and bees decreasing in wetter years (Medica 1967).

HABITAT: New Mexico Whiptails occupy shrubby, sandy floodplains; washes; arroyos; the edges of playas; disturbed areas; grasslands with dominant shrubs consisting of big sagebrush, four-wing saltbush, rubber rabbitbrush, and New Mexico olive (Wright 1971, Wright and Lowe 1968, Persons and Wright 1999, Cordes and Walker 2009, Murphy 2019). The species prefers sandy areas with little vegetation, but can be seen in desert-grassland ecotones, open shrublands and pinyon-juniper woodlands. They can be found in areas with widely scattered low lying mesquite trees and intervening sprouts of grasses and weeds of varying densities (Walker et al. 1992). They also inhabit areas with large herbs and sparse vegetation, and areas associated with man-made objects such as trash piles, hedge rows, ditches, and fences (Christiansen et al. 1971). Scattered large cottonwoods also provide habitat in the form of downed limbs and leaf litter (Persons and Wright 1999). The species is closely associated with the flood plain of the Rio Grande, where periodic flooding maintains perpetually disturbed conditions (Axtell 1966). In the Rio Grande Valley, the species is common in weedy fields and vacant lots within cities such as Albuquerque and El Paso (Persons and Wright 1999).

ELEVATION: 1,000–1,900 m (3,200–6,200 ft) (Jones and Lovich 2009).

PLANT COMMUNITY: Plains and Great Basin Grassland.

POPULATION TRENDS: Population trends are not well documented for most of the range, but the current population trend appears to be stable (Hammerson et al. 2007, Painter 2017). Some distributionally disjunct populations were likely introduced by humans (Manning et al. 2005). Because this species is parthenogenic, populations can establish rapidly once a single individual is introduced (Leuck et al. 1981), and the species can be locally abundant where suitable habitat exists (Axtell 1966).

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

Status definitions: <https://hdms.azgfd.com/species-list/columns>

Heritage Network Conservation Status Rank definitions:

<https://hdms.azgfd.com/species-list/columns/#SRANK>

AGENCY STATUS

AZGFD:

USFWS (Endangered Species Act):

U.S. Forest Service:

Bureau of Land Management:

Mexico: PR - Determined Subject to Special Protection
(Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos
Naturales 2010)

OTHER STATUS

Heritage Network Status: G5
SNR

IUCN: LC (Hammerson et al. 2007.)

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: Human activities and agricultural development that disturb habitats appear to favor expansion of the species' range (Axtell 1966, Wright and Lowe 1968, Wright 1971). Habitat modification in riparian areas along the Rio Grande, including removal of non-native plants such as saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.) and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), appears to benefit New Mexico Whiptails by creating more open understory conditions (Bateman et al. 2008).

Hybridization with Little Striped Whiptail (*A. inornatus*) occurs where the two species are sympatric, particularly in areas where their preferred microhabitats come into close contact due to human-made features such as hedges, fences, or roadbeds. Hybrid individuals are typically larger than either parental form and may represent a genetic concern in areas of overlap (Axtell 1966, Wright and Lowe 1967, Christiansen et al. 1971). The long-term consequences of parthenogenetic reproduction, including reduced genetic diversity and limited ability to adapt to environmental changes, may pose challenges for the species (Christiansen 1971, Parker and Selander 1984).

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:****LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP¹**

NPS – Petrified Forest National Park.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**REFERENCES:**

Axtell, Ralph W. 1966. Geographic distribution of the unisexual whiptail *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* (Sauria: Teiidae): present and past. *Herpetologica* 22(4):241-253.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3891343>

¹ The list is based on where HDMS has records for the species and potentially may not be complete.

- Bateman, Heather L. and Alice Chung-MacCoubrey. 2013. *Aspidoscelis exsanguis* (Chihuahuan spotted whiptail), *Aspidoscelis neomexicana* (New Mexico whiptail), *Aspidoscelis uniparens* (desert grassland whiptail) bifurcated taiBrennanls. Herpetological Review 44(4):663.
- Bateman, Heather L., Alice Chung-MacCoubrey, and Howard L. Snell. 2008. Impact of non-native plant removal on lizards in riparian habitats in the southwestern United States. Restoration Ecology 16(1):180-190. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1526-100X.2007.00361.x>
- Bateman, Heather L., Howard L. Snell, Alice Chung-MacCoubrey, and Deborah M. Finch. 2010. Growth, activity, and survivorship from three sympatric parthenogenic whiptails (family Teiidae). Journal of Herpetology, 44(2):301-306. <https://doi.org/10.1670/08-252.1>
- Christiansen, James L. 1969. Notes on hibernation of *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* and *C. inornatus* (Sauria: Teiidae). Journal of Herpetology, 3(1/2), 99–100. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1563229>
- Christiansen, James L. 1971. Reproduction of *Cnemidophorus inornatus* and *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* (Sauria, Teiidae) in northern New Mexico. American Museum Novitates 2442:1-48. <https://digitallibrary.amnh.org/bitstreams/9c560dde-d463-41c7-a0b1-524eb3afa8d0/download>
- Christiansen, James L., William G. Degenhardt, and James E. White. 1971. Habitat preferences of *Cnemidophorus inornatus* and *C. neomexicanus* with reference to conditions contributing to their hybridization. Copeia 1971(2):357-359. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1442858>
- Cole, Charles J., Herbert C. Dessauer, and George F. Barrowclough. 1988. Hybrid origin of a unisexual species of whiptail lizard, *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus*, in western North America: new evidence and a review. American Museum Novitates, 2905:1-38. <https://digitallibrary.amnh.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/dc5b42d5-c561-40b5-9fdd-a238c3f72a0e/content>
- Collins, Joseph T. and Travis W. Taggart. 2002. Standard common and current scientific names for North American amphibians, turtles, reptiles, and crocodylians. Fifth edition. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. 44 pages.
- Cordes, James E. and James M. Walker. 2009. Parthenogenetic *Aspidoscelis neomexicana* (Sauria: Teiidae) and syntopic congeners in Presidio County, Texas. The Southwestern Naturalist 54(2):226-230. <https://doi.org/10.1894/GC-76.1>
- Cordes, James E., James M. Walker, and R. M. Abuhteba. 1990. Genetic homogeneity in geographically remote populations of parthenogenetic *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* (Sauria: Teiidae). Texas Journal of Science 43:303–305.

- Crother, Brian I., Jeff Boundy, Jonathan A. Campbell, Kevin de Queiroz, Darrel R. Frost, Richard Highton, John B. Iverson, Peter A. Meylan, Tod W. Reeder, Michael E. Seidel, Jack W. Sites, Jr., Travis W. Taggart, Stephen G. Tilley, and David B. Wake. 2000 [2001]. Scientific and standard English names of amphibians and reptiles of North America north of Mexico, with comments regarding confidence in our understanding. Fifth edition. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, Herpetological Circular 29:1–82.
- Crother, B. I., Jeff Boundy, Jonathan A. Campbell, Kevin de Quieroz, Darrel Frost, David M. Green, Richard Highton, John B. Iverson, Roy W. McDiarmid, Peter A. Meylan, Tod W. Reeder, Michael E. Seidel, Jack W. Sites, Jr., Stephen G. Tilley, and David B. Wake. 2003. Scientific and standard English names of amphibians and reptiles of North America north of Mexico: Update. Herpetological Review 34(3):196-203.
- Crother, Brian I. and Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles Committee on Standard English and Scientific Names, editors. 2017. Scientific and standard English names of amphibians and reptiles of North America north of Mexico, with comments regarding confidence in our understanding. Eighth edition. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles Herpetological Circular 43:1–104.
- Degenhardt, William G., Charles W. Painter, and Andrew H. Price. 1996. Amphibians and reptiles of New Mexico. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque, New Mexico. 431 pages.
- Duellman, William E. and Richard G. Zweifel. 1962. A synopsis of the lizards of the sexlineatus group (genus *Cnemidophorus*). Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History 123(3):159-210.
- Hammerson, G. A., P. Lavin, J. Vazquez Díaz, G. Quintero Díaz, and H. Gadsden. 2007. *Aspidoscelis neomexicana*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2007: e.T64278A12752324.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2007.RLTS.T64278A12752324.en>
- Holycross, Andrew T., Thomas C. Brennan, and Randall D. Babb. 2022. A field guide to amphibians and reptiles in Arizona, second edition. Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona. 165 pages.
- Integrated Taxonomic Information System. 2025. The Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) on-line database. www.itis.gov, [CC0, https://doi.org/10.5066/F7KH0KBK](https://doi.org/10.5066/F7KH0KBK) (Accessed 2025-12-19).
- International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. 1999. *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* Lowe & Zweifel, 1952 (Reptilia, Squamata): specific name conserved. Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature 56(2):162-163.
- Jones, Lawrence L. C. and Robert E. Lovich, editors. 2009. Lizards of the American southwest: a photographic field guide. Rio Nuevo Publishers, Tucson, Arizona. 567 pages.

- Leuck, Beth E., Edwin E. Leuck II, and Ross T. B. Sherwood . 1981. A new population of New Mexico whiptail lizards, *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* (Teiidae). *Southwestern Naturalist* 26:72–74
- Lowe, Charles H. and Richard G. Zweifel. 1952. A new species of whiptail lizard (genus *Cnemidophorus*) from New Mexico. *Bulletin of the Chicago Academy of Sciences* 9:229-247.
- Manning, Glenn J., Charles J. Cole, Herbert C. Dessauer, and James M. Walker. 2005. Hybridization between parthenogenetic lizards (*Aspidoscelis neomexicana*) and gnochoristic lizards (*Aspidoscelis sexlineata viridis*) in New Mexico; ecological, morphological, cytological, and molecular context. *American Museum Novitates* 2005(3492):1-56.
- Maslin, T. Paul. 1962. All-female species of the lizard genus *Cnemidophorus*, Teiidae. *Science* 135(3499):212-213. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.135.3499.212>
- McAllister, Chris T. 1990. Helminth parasites of unisexual and bisexual whiptail lizards (Teiidae) in North America. II. The New Mexico whiptail (*Cnemidophorus neomexicanus*). *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* 26(3):403-406. <https://doi.org/10.7589/0090-3558-26.3.403>
- Medica, Philip A. 1967. Food habits, habitat preference, reproduction, and diurnal activity in four sympatric species of whiptail lizards (*Cnemidophorus*) in south central New Mexico. *Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Sciences* 66(4):251-276.
- Murphy, John C. 2019. Arizona's amphibians & reptiles: a natural history and field guide. Second edition. Book Services. 332 pages.
- Nicholson, Kirsten E., editor. 2025. Scientific and standard English names of amphibians and reptiles of North America north of Mexico, with comments regarding confidence in our understanding. Ninth edition. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. 87 pages. online database at <https://cnah.org/>
- Oliver, George V. and John W. Wright. 2007. The New Mexico whiptail, *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* (Squamata: Teiidae), in the Great Basin of north central Utah, Western North American Naturalist 67(3):461-467. [https://doi.org/10.3398/1527-0904\(2007\)67\[461:TNMWCN\]2.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.3398/1527-0904(2007)67[461:TNMWCN]2.0.CO;2)
- Painter, Charles W., James N. Stuart, J. Tomasz Giermakowski, and Leland J. S. Pierce. 2017. Checklist of the amphibians and reptiles of New Mexico, USA, with notes on taxonomy, status, and distribution. *Western Wildlife* 4:29–60.
- Parker Jr., E. Davis and Robert K. Selander. 1984. Low clonal diversity in the parthenogenetic lizard *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* (Sauria: Teiidae). *Herpetologica* 40:245–252. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3892291>
- Persons, Trevor and John W. Wright. 1999. Discovery of *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* in Arizona. *Herpetological Review* 30(4), p. 207-208.

- Reeder, Tod W., Charles J. Cole, and Herbert C. Dessauer. 2002. Phylogenetic relationships of whiptail lizards of the genus *Cnemidophorus* (Squamata: Teiidae): A test of monophyly, reevaluation of karyotypic evolution, and review of hybrid origins. *American Museum Novitates* 2002(3365):1-61.
[https://doi.org/10.1206/0003-0082\(2002\)365%3C0001:PROWLO%3E2.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.1206/0003-0082(2002)365%3C0001:PROWLO%3E2.0.CO;2)
- Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales. 2010. NORMA Oficial Mexicana NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, Protección ambiental-Especies nativas de México de flora y fauna silvestres-Categorías de riesgo y especificaciones para su inclusión, exclusión o cambio-Lista de especies en riesgo. 77 pages.
- Smith, Hobart M., Harry L. Taylor, James M. Walker, Ralph W. Axtell, Steven J. Beaupre, David Chiszar, James E. Cordes, Julio A. Lemos-Espinal, Andrew H. Price, Frank van Breukelen, and Richard G. Zweifel. 1997. *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* Lowe & Zweifel, 1952 (Reptilia, Squamata): proposed conservation of the specific name. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 54(1997):167-171.
- Stebbins, Robert C. 2003. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. Third edition. Houghton Mifflin Company. Boston, Massachusetts. 533 pages.
- Taylor, Harry L. and James M. Walker. 1996. *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus*-*Cnemidophorus perplexus* nomenclatural problem (Sauria: Teiidae) and its resolution. *Copeia* 1996(4):945-954. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1447657>
- Tucker, Derek B., Guarino R. Colli, Lilian G. Giugliano, S. Blair Hedges, Catriona R. Hendry, Emily Moriarty Lemmon, Alan R. Lemmon, Jack W. Sites Jr., and R. Alexander Pyron. 2016. Methodological congruence in phylogenomic analyses with morphological support for teiid lizards (Sauria: Teiidae). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 103:75-84.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2016.07.002>
- Uetz, Peter, P. Freed, R. Aguilar, F. Reyes, J. Kudera, and J. Hošek, editors. 2025. The Reptile Database, last changed or updated: 2025-09-20. <http://www.reptile-database.org>
- Walker, James M. 1997. Genealogy of the lectotype of *Cnemidophorus perplexus* Baird and Girard, 1852. *Journal of Herpetology* 31(1):103-107.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/1565336>
- Walker, James M., James E. Cordes, and James R. Dixon. 2016. Distinguishing characters and variation in *Aspidoscelis neomexicana* (Squamata: Teiidae): a little known diploid parthenogenetic whiptail lizard in Texas. *The Texas Journal of Science* 68(1-4):33-46.
- Walker Sr., John W., James E. Cordes, and James M. Walker Jr. 1992. Habitat preferences of a disjunct population of parthenogenetic *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* (Sauria: Teiidae) in San Miguel Co., New Mexico. *Southwestern Naturalist* 37:82-86.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/3672150>
- Wright, J. W. 1971. *Cnemidophorus neomexicanus* Lowe and Zweifel New Mexico whiptail lizard. *Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles* 109:1-3.

Wright John W. and Charles H. Lowe. 1967. Hybridization in nature between parthenogenetic and bisexual species of whiptail lizards (genus *Cnemidophorus*). American Museum Novitates 2286:1-36. <http://hdl.handle.net/2246/3078>

Wright, John W. and Charles H. Lowe. 1968. Weeds, polyploids, parthenogenesis, and the geographical and ecological distribution of all-female species of *Cnemidophorus*. Copeia 1968(1):128-138. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1441559>

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

EXTERNAL LINKS:

[NatureServe Explorer](#)

[iNaturalist](#)

[Online Field Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Arizona](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Aspidoscelis combines the Greek nouns *aspidō*, meaning shield, and *scelis*, meaning rib or leg, which refers to the large scales on the legs (Reeder et al. 2002). The name *neomexicanus* is a Greek-Latin combination referring to the state of New Mexico (Wright 1971).

Revised: 2006-12-21 (SMS)
2026-02-10 (AGE)

To the user of this abstract: you may use the entire abstract or any part of it. We do request, however, that if you make use of this abstract in plans, reports, publications, etc. that you credit the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Please use the following citation:

Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2026. *Aspidoscelis neomexicanus*, New Mexico whiptail. Unpublished abstract compiled and edited by the Heritage Data Management System, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona. 11 pages.