

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Animal Abstract

Element Code: ARACF14180Data Sensitivity: No**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**NAME: *Sceloporus slevini*

COMMON NAME: Slevin's Bunchgrass Lizard, Bunch Grass Lizard

SYNONYMS: *Sceloporus scalaris*

FAMILY: Sauria: Iguanidae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Smith 1939.

TYPE LOCALITY:

TYPE SPECIMEN:

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: Some 54 species in genus *Sceloporus*, from southern Canada to Panama.

DESCRIPTION: Snout-vent length 1.6 – 2.75 inches (4.1-7.0 cm). Ground color various shades of brown above, with white or orange strip on each upper side and brown blotches on back; rear edge of each dorsal blotch black, edged with lighter color; dark blotch at front of shoulder. Some male and female individuals may lack blotches. Males usually have blue belly patch, which is absent or reduced in the female. Lateral scales parallel dorsal rows; in other species they are diagonal upward. (Stebbins 2003).

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: A mountain form distinguished from all our other Spiny Lizards by arrangement of femoral-pore rows, and scales on sides of the body. Femoral rows are separated at midline by only 1 or 2 scales rather than 3 or more, and the lateral scale rows parallel the dorsal rows. In other Spiny Lizards the lateral scale rows extend diagonally upward. In the Striped Plateau Lizard (*S. virgatus*) with which the Bunchgrass Lizard coexists in some areas, no blue markings exist on the belly and the lateral scales are in diagonal rows. (Stebbins 2003).

## ILLUSTRATIONS:

Color drawing (Stebbins 1966: Pl. 22)

Color drawing (Stebbins 2003: Pl. 30)

Color photo (Behler and King 1979: Pls. 367,368)

TOTAL RANGE: Mountains of extreme southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico, south into Sierra Madre Occidental to Pueblo, Mexico.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Huachuca, Dragoon, Santa Rita, Whetstone and Chiricahua mountains; also at lower elevations in Empire Valley, San Rafael Valley, and vicinity of Elgin, Santa Cruz County, and Santa Rita and Mustang mountains, Pima County.

### **SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**BIOLOGY:** Most active during periods of summer rains. Look for them in late morning on warm, bright days.

**REPRODUCTION:** Clutch of 9-13 eggs laid from June to August.

**FOOD HABITS:** Eats insects (hemipterans, ants, beetles, wasps, grasshoppers) and spiders.

**HABITAT:** In Arizona, inhabits primarily coniferous forest to 10,000 feet, rarely desert-grassland. Can be found on the ground in and among bunchgrass, usually in open sunny areas.

**ELEVATION:** Based on unpublished records in the HDMS (AGFD, accessed 2003), elevation in Arizona ranges from 4,300 – 9,480 ft. (1311-2890 m). Over its entire range, it is found mainly above 6,000 ft. (1830 m) in sunny patches of bunchgrass in open coniferous woods; also occurs as low as 4,000 ft. (1220 m), on grassy plains (Stebbins 2003).

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Coniferous forest to grassy plains.

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Thriving at many localities within very limited Arizona range.

### **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None

**STATE STATUS:** 2 (AZGFD, AWCS 2022)  
[1B (AGFD SWAP 2012)]

**OTHER STATUS:** Bureau of Land Management Sensitive (USDI, BLM AZ 2010)  
Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 2007, 2013)  
[Not Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1999)]  
[Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1988)]

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** None

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:** None

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Distribution, habitat, population and life history studies needed.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** BLM – Tucson Field Office; DOD – Fort Huachuca Military Reservation; USFS – Coronado National Forest; San Rafael Ranch Natural Area; Private.

### **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

#### **REFERENCES:**

- Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2012. Arizona's State Wildlife Action Plan 2012-2022. Phoenix, AZ.
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#### **MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

**AZGFD Animal Abstract**

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*Sceloporus slevini*

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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