

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

Animal Abstract

Element Code: ARACF14150Data Sensitivity: No**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Sceloporus virgatus*  
**COMMON NAME:** Striped Plateau Lizard  
**SYNONYMS:** *Sceloporus undulatus virgatus*  
**FAMILY:** Sauria:Iguanidae

**AUTHOR, PUBLICATION:** Smith, H.M. 1938:11 Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool. U. Mich  
(387):1-17.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** "above Santa Maria Mine, El Tigre Mountains [Seirra de la Maderal],  
Sonora, Mexico".

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** About 54 species in genus, from southern Canada to  
Panama and from Pacific to Atlantic coasts.

**DESCRIPTION:** Stebbins 1966:108-109.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:**

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Color drawing (Stebbins 1966: plate 22)  
Color photo (Behler and King 1979: plate 374)

**TOTAL RANGE:** Mountains of extreme southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico,  
south in Sierra Madre Occidental at least to south Chihuahua.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Chiricahua (and Petoncillo?) Mountains, Cochise County.

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS****BIOLOGY:****REPRODUCTION:**

**FOOD HABITS:** Arthropods

**HABITAT:** In Arizona, oak woodland and coniferous forest, 5000 - 9600 feet, most abundant  
in oak-pine associations; principally in canyon bottoms on rocks and logs along the banks and  
in the immediate vicinity of the drainage channels, rare or absent high on canyon hillsides.

**ELEVATION:** 5,000 - 9,600 feet (1,525 - 2,928 m).

**PLANT COMMUNITY:**

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Thriving throughout Chiricahua Mountains.

### **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None  
**STATE STATUS:** 2 (AZGFD, AWCS 2022)  
[None (AGFD SWAP 2012)]  
**OTHER STATUS:** ANHP Endemic Southwest

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** Thrives with no management other than habitat preservation.

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:** None

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

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:**

### **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

#### **REFERENCES:**

- Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2012. Arizona's State Wildlife Action Plan 2012-2022. Phoenix, AZ.
- Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2022. Arizona Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2022-2032. Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona. 378 pages.
- Behler, J.L. and F.W. King. 1979. The Audubon Society field guide to North American reptiles and amphibians. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. P.531.
- Cole, C.J. 1963. Copeia 2:413-425.
- Cole, C.J. 1968. SSAR catalogue, #72.1.
- Lowe, C.H. 1964. Amphibians and reptiles. The vertebrates of Arizona. University of Arizona Press, Tucson. P.162.
- Smith, H.M. 1938. Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool. Univ. Mich. 387:1-17.
- Smith, H.M. 1946. Handbook of lizards. Lizards of the United States and Canada. Comstock Publishing Company, Ithaca, New York. Pp.234-236.
- Stebbins, R.C. 1954. Amphibians and reptiles of western North America. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York. Pp.243-244.
- Stebbins, R.C. 1966. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. Pp.108-109.

Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. Second edition, revised. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

T.R. Van Devender, Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum, Tucson.

T.B. Johnson, AGFD Nongame Branch, Phoenix.

C.J. Cole, AMNH, New York.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Revised:** 1991-03-28( )  
2023-05-03 (MBL)

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. 19XX (= **year of last revision as indicated at end of abstract**). X...X (= **taxon of animal or plant**). Unpublished abstract compiled and edited by the Heritage Data Management System, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ. X pp.