

ON AN ALOPOGLOSSUS FROM SURINAM

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With one textfigure

A single *Alopoglossus* was taken by Dr. K. M. Hulk during the Corantine Expedition in Surinam. It is described in the present paper as a distinct subspecies of *Alopoglossus copii* Blgr.

Peracca (1894, p. 3) showed that in the type of *Pantodactylus borellii* (= *P. schreibersii* (Wieg.)) the tongue is partly covered by imbricate papillae and partly by oblique plicae. He further mentions (l. c., p. 4) that his observation was confirmed by Boulenger who found too that in *Pantodactylus schreibersii* (Wieg.) the posterior half of the tongue may be covered with oblique plicae, while the anterior half bears imbricate papillae. Therefore, Burt & Burt (1931, p. 357) unite the genera *Alopoglossus* Blgr. and *Pantodactylus* Dum. & Bibr. However, the shape of the dorsal scales in species like *Pantodactylus schreibersii* (Wieg.) is so widely different from that in *Alopoglossus copii* Blgr., that I cannot consider such species as congeneric. The genus *Pantodactylus* as recognized by Burt & Burt (1931, p. 357) certainly is a composite of three different genera, viz., *Pantodactylus* Dum. & Bibr., *Alopoglossus* Blgr., and the genus to which *Pantodactylus nicefori* Burt & Burt (1931, p. 360) must be referred. The latter species differs widely from the others by the presence of an occipital behind the interparietal, these two shields separating the parietals (Burt & Burt, 1931, p. 360, figs. 12, 13). Although the description (l. c.) states that the nasals are separated by the internasal, the accompanying figure 12 shows the nasals to be in contact. Without examining the specimens it is impossible to say to which genus *P. nicefori* must be referred, but certainly not to *Pantodactylus* or *Alopoglossus*.

Alopoglossus copii surinamensis nov. subsp.

1 ex., ♀?, forest on the Lucie River, Surinam, z. XII. 1910, leg. Dr. K. M. Hulk, Corantine Expedition, Mus. Leiden, Herp. reg. no. 4858. The exact locality is indicated by Käyser (1912, map III, camp Nov. 18th-Dec. 7th).

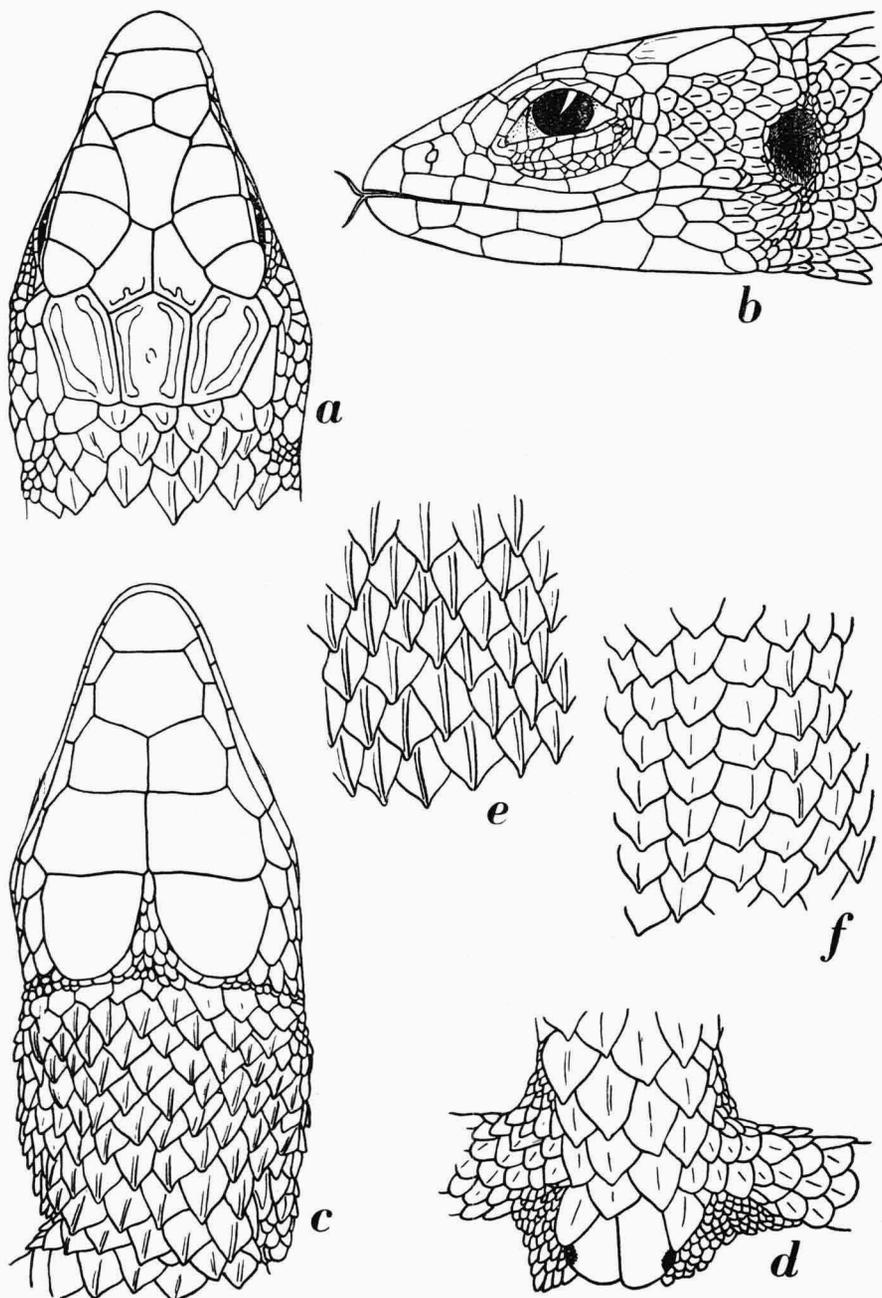


Fig. 1. *Alopoglossus copii surinamensis* nov. subsp., type. a, head, upper view; b, head, side view; c, head and gular region, lower view; d, preanal region; e, dorsal scales; f, ventral scales. All figures $\times 7$.

Tongue arrow-headed, bifid anteriorly, covered with oblique plicae. Lateral teeth tricuspid. Lower eyelid with a transparent disk of 4 to 5 scales.

Rostral trapezoid, largely visible from above; the length of this upper portion of the rostral is about equal to the length of the frontonasal. Nostril between two nasals. On the left side the posterior nasal is in contact with both the first and second upper labial; on the right side the posterior nasal is separated from the second upper labial by a small scale wedged in between the lower freno-orbital, the upper labials and the nasal. Two freno-orbitals, one above the other. Frontonasal widely separating the nasals, twice as broad as long, forming a straight transverse suture with the rostral. Pre-frontals broadly in contact; their common suture equals about half the length of the frontonasal. Frontal $1\frac{1}{3}$ times as long as wide, in contact with the anterior three supraoculars. Four supraoculars; five supraciliaries. Two frontoparietals. Two parietals separated by a large interparietal; parietals and interparietal about equal in size. Seven upper labials; the third very long, i. e., $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as the second. Three suborbitals; the second very long. Two postoculars. The parietals with two temporals along their outer border; the posterior temporal much larger than the anterior. The temporal scales are keeled, the anterior less so than the posterior. Except for the parietals and the interparietal, each of which bears two longitudinal ridges, the head shields are smooth. Symphysial followed by an azygous chinshield; the latter is followed by three pairs of chinshields. The shields of the anterior two pairs form a median suture; these shields are also in contact with the lower labials. The shields of the third pair are separated from each other by small scales; they are also separated from the lower labials. Six lower labials.

Dorsal and ventral scales more or less rhomboid, leaf shaped; the dorsals strongly keeled; the keels on the ventrals much less distinct; gulars strongly keeled. The dorsal scales are somewhat unequal in size; here and there smaller scales are present between the larger ones. The scales on the sides are slightly smaller than those on the back. The dorsals in oblique rows, the ventrals in regular longitudinal and transverse rows. Twenty eight scales from the occiput to the posterior border of the hind limbs; 23 scales round the middle of the body; 7 scales from the chinshields to the collar, and 19 scales from the collar to the preanals; thus together 27 scales from the chinshields to the preanals. Ventrals in 4 longitudinal rows. Collar very indistinct, consisting of 7 scales. Four large preanals, placed more or less in a semicircle, the median pair largest; the preanals are only faintly keeled.

Within the semicircle two scales which may be named preanals, but which are exactly similar to the ventrals.

The scales on the dorsal surface of the tail like the dorsals, and strongly keeled; the keels forming four distinct, more or less serrated longitudinal ridges. Scales on the lower surface of the tail similar to the ventrals, not so strongly keeled as the dorsals. Limbs covered with large, strongly keeled scales, but the posterior surface of humerus and femur with much smaller smooth scales.

No trace of femoral pores.

The diameter of the earopening is contained about 1.8 times in that of the eye-opening. The adpressed fore limb reaches the centre of the eye. The adpressed hind limb just reaches the shoulder.

Colour. Brownish above. A dark line starting from the nostril passes through the orbit, and is continued on the sides of the neck to the shoulder; on the sides of the body this line changes into a broad dark band. A light band from the orbit to the shoulder. Back with paler and darker dots; these are arranged in such a way that faint lighter and darker chevrons are formed, with their tips pointing forward. Tail with a series of paired pale spots; on the base of the tail a dark spot between the first pair of pale spots; a dark band along the sides of the tail. Upper labials mottled with brownish, especially anteriorly; the posterior labials much lighter, especially on the left side. Lower labials whitish, with a narrow strip along their outer border mottled with brownish, more distinctly on the right than on the left side. Chinshields, gulars and ventrals uniformly whitish. Only the median preanals with a brownish spot near their lateral border.

Measurements in mm

Length of head	7½
Length of head and body	29
Distance from axilla to groin	12
Length of fore limb	9
Length of hind limb	13½
Tail (broken)	ca. 18½ (partly regenerated)
Diameter of ear-opening	1½
Diameter of eye-opening	2¾

This specimen has been compared with the descriptions of all the species included in *Pantodactylus* by Burt & Burt (1931, p. 358). Of these *Pantodactylus nicefori* Burt & Burt has been discussed above, and need not be considered here. *Pantodactylus schreibersii* (Wieg.) (Peters, 1862, p. 182, pl. I fig. 4) and *P. tyleri* Burt & Burt (1931, p. 362, figs. 14, 15) both have only three supraoculars, hexagonal dorsal scales, and enlarged gulars; in these characters they are amply distinguished from the present form.

Alopoglossus gracilis Werner (1913, p. 13) differs from the Surinam specimen in having hexagonal dorsal scales, and in having a much higher number of scales (34) round the body. *Alopoglossus carinicaudatus* (Cope, 1876, p. 160) is different in having the diameter of the earopening equal to that of the eye-opening, and in having a shorter hind limb (only 5/6 the distance from axilla to groin). *Alopoglossus amazonius* Ruthven (1924, p. 1) has smooth gulars and ventrals, while (at least in the type) the prefrontals meet only in one point with the frontal and frontonasal. *Loxopholis rugiceps* Cope (1868, p. 305; Burt & Burt 1931, p. 358; *Pantodactylus rugiceps*) differs from the Surinam specimen in having smooth quadrate ventrals, a frontonasal which is as long as broad, and in having a relatively shorter hind limb (reaching the wrist when adpressed). *Alopoglossus buckleyi buckleyi* (O'Shaughnessy, 1881, p. 233, pl. XXII fig. 2; *Leposoma buckleyi*; Burt & Burt, 1931, p. 358) has narrower dorsals (Boulenger, 1885, p. 385), quadrangular or squarish ventrals, and a narrower internasal. *Alopoglossus buckleyi festae* Peracca (1904, p. 7; Burt & Burt, 1931, p. 359 and Parker, 1934, p. 270; *Pantodactylus buckleyi festae*) has smooth ventrals and has the three pairs of chinshields in contact¹). Thus more or less important differences are found between all these species and the specimen from Surinam. In general characters, however, it agrees well with *Alopoglossus copii* as described and figured by Boulenger (1885, p. 383, pl. XX fig. 1), e.g., the shape of the dorsal scales is the same. It has, however, a slightly higher number of scales round the body, and the coloration is different. Boulenger, who examined both males and females of *A. copii*, describes the chinshields and ventrals as brown-spotted, while in the present specimen the lower surface is uniformly whitish. Judging by Boulenger's figure (1885, pl. XX fig. 1 b) the frontonasal of *A. copii* is relatively narrower. Unfortunately a direct comparison to Boulenger's types was impossible owing to the war, for such a comparison may reveal other differences. For the present the Surinam form may best be considered to be a subspecies of *A. copii*.

I am greatly indebted to my colleague Dr. C. de Jong, without whose help the figures illustrating this note would not have been ready in time.

1) Although the figure by O'Shaughnessy (1881, pl. XXII fig. 2a) shows the third pair of chinshields to be separated from each other, both this author (l. c., p. 233) and Boulenger (1885, p. 385) describe them as in contact.

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