

A NEW LIZARD, *EUMECES POONAENSIS* (SCINCIDAE) FROM INDIA

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(With 2 Text-figures)

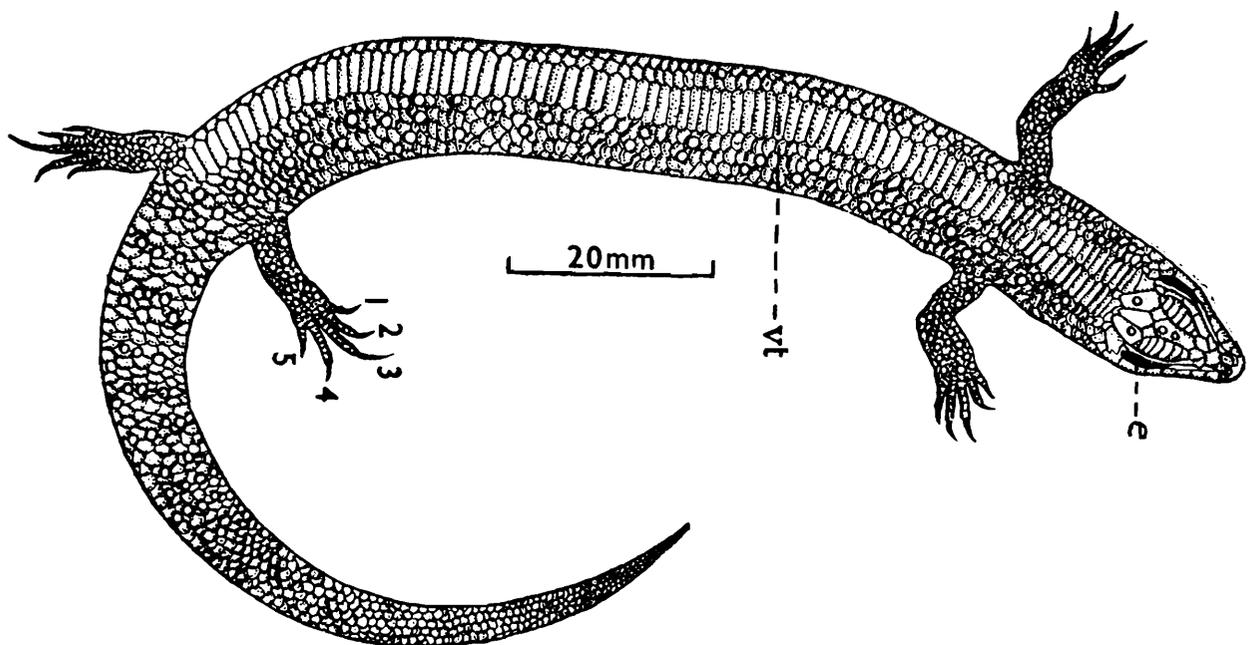
While studying a collection of reptiles made by the Western Regional Station of the Zoological Survey of India, I came across a new scink (Reptilia : Sauria : Scincidae) which is described below.

Genus *Eumeces* Weigmann, 1834

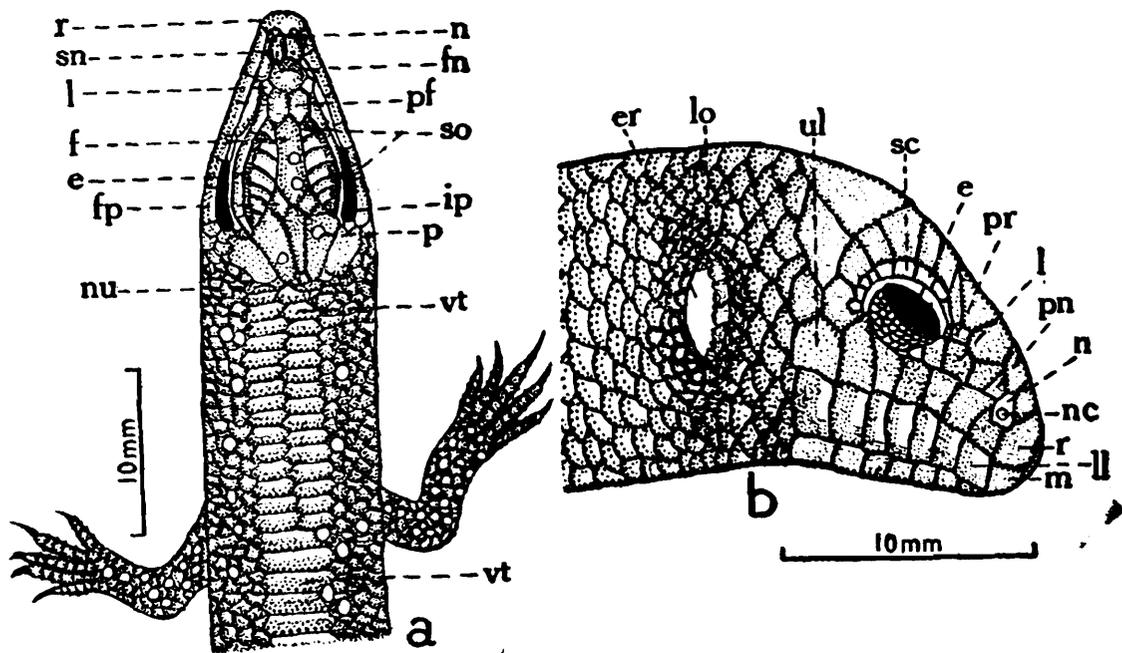
*Eumeces poonaensis* n. sp.

*Material*.—One female, in spirit, Katrajghat c. 27 km. south of Poona (Maharashtra, India), alt. c. 564 m., coll. B. K. Tikadar (No. 157/28. 7. 1961).

*Description*.—Dorsum and limbs dark brown to deep bronze, with a lateral series of round white spots arranged regularly and extending from head to half the tail ; sides from snout to half the tail with deep brown stripes ending vertically downwards to a point ; stripes more prominent on labials and neck ; ventrum yellowish white with numerous brown spots on ventral scales of tail.



TEXT-FIG. 1. *Eumeces poonaensis* n. sp., Entire specimen (dorsal view). e., eye ; vt., vertebral scales.

TEXT-FIG. 2.—*Eumeces poonaensis* n. sp.

(a) Dorsal view of anterior portion of body. (b) Lateral view of head.

*e.*, eye ; *er.*, ear ; *f.*, frontal ; *fn.*, frontonasal ; *fp.*, frontoparietal ; *ip.*, interparietal ; *l.*, loreal ; *ll.*, lower labials ; *lo.*, lobules of ear ; *m.*, mental ; *n.*, nasal ; *nc.*, nasal cavity ; *nu.*, nuchal ; *p.*, parietal ; *pf.*, prefrontal ; *pn.*, postnasal ; *pr.*, preocular ; *r.*, rostral ; *sc.*, supraciliaries ; *sn.*, supranasal ; *so.*, supraocular ; *ul.*, upper labials ; *vt.*, vertebral scale.

Head very small in comparison to body and tapering anteriorly ; body long and slender. Scales : First supraocular slightly smaller than second ; fronto-parietals small (smaller than interparietal) ; interparietal entirely separating the parietals ; 5 pairs of nuchal shields present ; nasal shield moderate-sized and semipentagonal ; a small postnasal present ; two pentagonal supranasals in close contact ; anterior loreal slightly broader than long and smaller than posterior loreal ; supralabials 7 in number, the first not higher than second and touching almost half of the border of postnasal ; rostral shield subtriangular and almost 3 times the size of first supralabial ; infralabials 7 in number ; mental shield subtriangular, almost 3 times the size of first infralabial ; 2 post-mental shields present, the anterior one smaller than the posterior. Ear opening oval and with 6 spur-like projecting lobules on anterior margin. Eyelids well developed ; lower eyelid scaly. With 23 scales round middle of body, of which the vertebral on back being in form of shields and about twice the size of other dorsal scales ; vertebral scales in series,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  times as broad as long and formed by fusion of two median rows of dorsal scales, the fusion occurring at the 17th vertebral scale. With 85 dorsal scales (including nuchal scales) in longitudinal series of which 16 anterior scales in two rows ; scales on nape and near base of tail not fused. Limbs moderate-sized, pentadactyle, *third toe longest (and also longer than the fourth)* ; with 9 transverse lamellae under fourth and 10 under third toe.

Internal organs : Ovary white ; 9 mm. long, 3 mm. wide. Peri-oneum yellow.

*Measurements*

1. Total length (snout to tip of tail)	203 mm.
2. Standard length (snout to vent)	118 mm.
3. Length of tail (vent to tip of tail)	85 mm.
4. Interorbital length	7 mm.
5. Girth of body	47 mm.

*Type-specimen.*—*Holotype* : female, deposited in the National Zoological Collection at the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta (Z.S.I. Reg. No. 21159). *Type-locality* : Katrajhat, near Poona. Known only from the type-locality.

*Comparisons.*—*Eumeces poonaensis* n. sp. closely resembles *E. taniolatus* Blyth from West Pakistan, but is separable as follows :—(i) Third toe longer than fourth (*vs.* shorter). (ii) Dorsal scales in longitudinal series over 80 (*vs.* under 80, usually 72-80). (iii) Tail scales rough (*vs.* smooth). (iv) Tail shorter than body (*vs.* longer).