

Centrolenidae de Colombia VII. Redescrpción de *Centrolene andinum* (RIVERO, 1985). – *Lozania*, **64**: 1-12.

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## Presence of *Agama weidholzi* WETTSTEIN, 1932 in The Gambia, West Africa

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**Abstract.** *Agama weidholzi* WETTSTEIN, 1932 is for the first time recorded for The Gambia. The new locality, Bwiam on the southern shore of the Gambia River, is the westernmost locality of the species' distribution area. *A. weidholzi* is one of the rare regional endemics of arid West Africa. The new record is based on an adult female collected in January (dry season), suggesting that former assumptions of a seasonal phenological displacement between age classes, or even an unianual life cycle, in this species are unlikely.

Key words. Reptilia: Squamata: Agamidae: *Agama weidholzi*; first record; The Gambia.

*Agama weidholzi* WETTSTEIN, 1932 is a tiny and rare lizard with scattered distribution in S and SE Senegal (WETTSTEIN 1932, GRANDISON 1968, 1969, JOGER 1979, 1981, 1982 JOGER & LAMBERT 2002), western Mali (GRANDISON 1969, JOGER 1979, 1981, JOGER & LAMBERT 1996, 1997), and Guinea-Bissao (MONARD 1940). The latter author included a juvenile specimen of this species in the type series of his *Agama boensis* MONARD, 1940, which is otherwise composed of specimens of *Agama sankaranica* CHABANAUD, 1918.

The occurrence of *A. weidholzi* in S and SE Senegal (Casamance and Niokolo-Koba region, at the upper course of the Gambia River, respectively) made the presence of this species also likely in The Gambia, par-

ticularly in its eastern part, but no finds had so far been reported for that country (HAKANSON 1981, GRUSCHWITZ et al., 1991). Only in

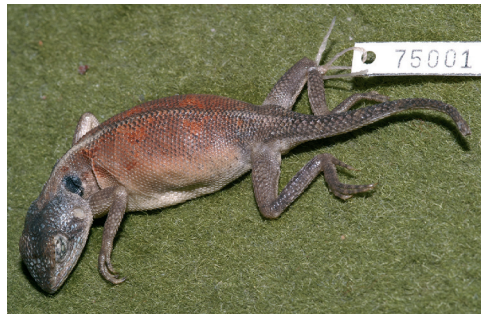


Fig. 1. Voucher specimen of *Agama weidholzi* (ZFMK 75001) from Bwiam, The Gambia.

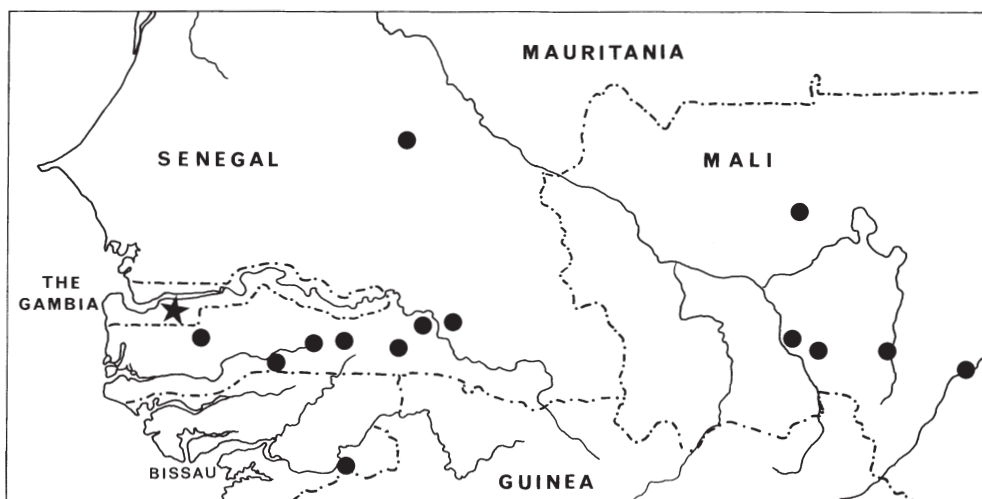


Fig. 2. Map of known distribution of *Agama weidholzi*. The first record for The Gambia is indicated by an asterisk. See text for respective references.

January 2003, Mrs. EVA-MARIA MINUTH was able to secure a specimen at Bwiam, which she kindly deposited in the Museum Koenig Herpetological Collection (ZFMK 75001) and which turned out to be an adult female (snout-vent length 59 mm) of *A. weidholzi* (Fig. 1). The area where the specimen was found is described by THIEME (2004). It may be noted that UETZ et al. (2005) cite „Gambia“ for *A. weidholzi*. This is obviously not based on a vouchered record from The Gambia, but probably due to the assumption that the type locality “Senegambien” also refers to The Gambia.

This record is not only remarkable because it is the first record for The Gambia of this rare little agama which has a scattered distribution. It is, moreover, the westernmost locality of its entire distribution area (Fig. 2), although it extends the known limits of the species' range for approx. 80 km only. Another interesting aspect, however, is that it is an adult, because only the series from Boughari, Casamance (BM 1967.2219-2233: GRANDISON 1969) likewise consists of adults. Both WETTSTEIN'S (1932) type series and JOGER'S (1979, 1981, 1982) series from Mali and SE Senegal consist of subadults only,

and MONARD'S (1940) Guinea-Bissau voucher is a juvenile. The latter was collected in March, and JOGER had collected his material (exclusively subadult,  $n = 20$ ) from January to February (i.e. in the dry season). In contrast, GRANDISON'S series of 15 adults was collected during the rainy season, between July and September. The herein reported Gambian female is, however, an adult and has nonetheless been caught in January. JOGER'S (1979) hypothesis that the different age classes of *A. weidholzi* could have a seasonally different phenology, i.e. a seasonal infraspecific niche segregation such as e.g. *Trachylepis perroteti* in the same area, has therefore to be rejected. Also his second hypothesis, viz. that the entire life span of these little agamas may perhaps comprise only one year, adults being present only in the rainy season and dying after reproduction is not supported by the Gambian adult female caught in the high dry season.

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