

## REPTILIA: SQUAMATA: SPHAERODACTYLIDAE

*Sphaerodactylus cochranae*

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Powell, R. and R.W. Henderson. 2008. *Sphaerodactylus cochranae*.

***Sphaerodactylus cochranae* Ruibal**  
**Haitises Striped Sphaero**

*Sphaerodactylus cochranae* Ruibal 1946:1. Type-locality, "San Lorenzo Bay, on the south side of Samana Bay, [Hato Mayor Province], in the Dominican Republic." Holotype, American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) 50233, an adult female, collected by W.G. Hassler on 24 July 1935 (not examined by authors).

• **CONTENT.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **DEFINITION.** *Sphaerodactylus cochranae* is a moderately sized sphaerodactyl, with male SVL to 30 mm and female SVL to 28 mm. Dorsal scales are large, acute, strongly keeled, flattened, imbricate, and number 20–23 from axilla to groin. Middorsal granules or granular scales are absent. Dorsal body scales have hair-bearing organs, with 3–8 organs around the free edges of scales (occasionally 3 organs set back from the edge); each organ has 1 hair. Ventral scales are smooth, cycloid, imbricate,

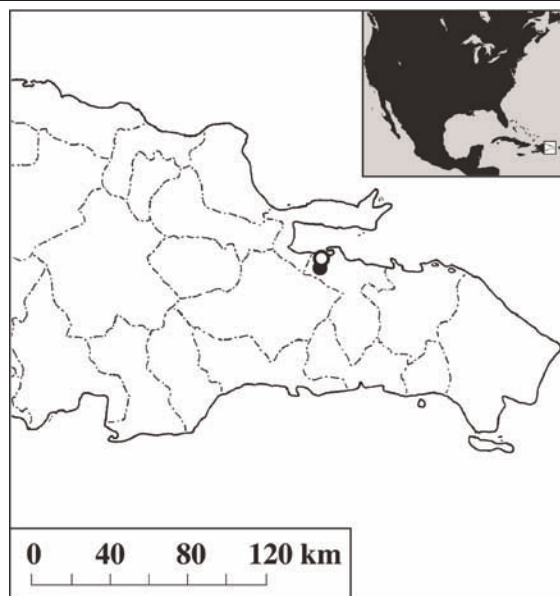


**FIGURE 1.** Adult *Sphaerodactylus cochranae* from Los Haitises National Park, Dominican Republic (photograph by Richard E. Glor).



**FIGURE 2.** The dorsal pattern of the type specimen (from Ruibal 1946).

and number 20–26 from axilla to groin. Dorsal caudal scales are keeled, acute, imbricate, and flat; ventral caudal scales are smooth, cycloid, imbricate, and slightly enlarged midventrally. The snout is acuminate, not depressed or decurved; snout scales are large, broad, flat, keeled, and juxtaposed. Scales of



**MAP.** Distribution of *Sphaerodactylus cochranae*. The circle represents the type-locality, other localities are marked with dots (modified from Schwartz and Henderson 1991).

the head and body are 1 postnasal, 0-1 internasals, 3 upper labials to mideye, gulars smooth to keeled, chest scales smooth, midbody scales 38–41, escutcheons 5 x 7.

The dorsal pattern is not sexually dichromatic. Dorsal ground color is yellowish brown to tan. Three dark-brown to black longitudinal stripes extend onto the tail. A scapular patch and ocelli are absent. Forelimbs are patternless tan; hindlimbs have pale reddish to orange spots. The venter is white to tan with pink on the chest and near the vent.

• **DIAGNOSIS.** *Sphaerodactylus cochranae* may be distinguished from all Hispaniolan congeners by its unique dorsal pattern; no other Hispaniolan species has such distinctive longitudinal stripes. *Sphaerodactylus rhabdotus* has a lineate pattern, but it is less distinct than that of *S. cochranae*; also, *S. rhabdotus* has a short, rounded, convex snout, whereas that of *S. cochranae* is long and pointed (Schwartz 1970).

• **DESCRIPTIONS.** Descriptions are in Ruibal (1946), Thomas and Schwartz (1983), and Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Ruibal (1946) provided line drawings of dorsal, lateral, and ventral views of the head, dorsal scales, and the dorsal pattern. Thomas and Schwartz (1983) illustrated the dorsal pattern on the head and neck. A color photograph is in Fernández (2007).

• **DISTRIBUTION.** *Sphaerodactylus cochranae* has a restricted distribution in mesic areas along the southern shore of the Bahía de Samaná (Schwartz and Henderson 1991), and also occurs in association with mogotes in adjacent haitises (Los Haitises National Park) in the eastern Dominican Republic (Glor

et al. 2001). The range has been previously illustrated in Thomas and Schwartz (1983) and Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** Schwartz (1980) and Powell et al. (1999) characterized *Sphaerodactylus cochranae* as a “North Island species.” Thomas and Schwartz (1983) provided a taxonomic analysis. Hass (1996) assigned this species to the *sputator* section, *cinereus* subsection, *argus* series, *notatus* subseries, but did not assign it to a species group. Powell et al. (2000) included this species among those from the Dominican Republic in need of conservation. Glor et al. (2001) noted an association with bromeliads on mogotes in the Los Haitises National Park, Dominican Republic.

The species is included in checklists, guides, and keys by Schwartz and Thomas (1975), MacLean et al. (1977), Henderson and Schwartz (1984), Henderson et al. (1984), Schwartz and Henderson (1985, 1988, 1991), Kluge (1991), Frank and Ramus (1995), Powell et al. (1996, 1999), and Hedges (2008).

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The specific name honors Doris M. Cochran, longtime curator at the National Museum of Natural History and author of the Herpetology of Hispaniola.

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