

***Dalmatolacerta* gen. nov.**

**Type species.** *Lacerta oxycephala* Duméril & Bibron, 1839 [= *Dalmatolacerta oxycephala* (Duméril & Bibron, 1839)].  
**Etymology.** A feminine name derived from Dalmatia, the region bordering the east coast of the Adriatic Sea now mainly

in Croatia where the genus occurs, and *lacerta*, a lizard.

**Synonymy.**

—*Lacerta* Linnaeus, 1758 (part); Duméril & Bibron, 1839. Erp. Gén. 5: 235. [*Lacerta oxycephala*].

—*Archaeolacerta* Mertens, 1921 (part); Mertens & Müller, 1928. Abh. Senck. Naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main 41: 28. [*Lacerta (Archaeolacerta) oxycephala*].

**Species included.** *Dalmatolacerta oxycephala* (Duméril & Bibron, 1839) **comb. nov.**

**Distribution.** Dalmatian region: southern Croatia including many offshore islands, southern Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro (Fig. 25g).

**Diagnosis.** Unique among Lacertini in having a particularly sharply pointed snout, the two medial longitudinal scale rows under the tail much more laterally expanded than neighbouring ones, and a pattern of alternating blue-green and blackish bands on the tail (except in melanic animals). Also possessing the following features found only in a minority of other Lacertini: head and body very strongly depressed, usual number of presacral vertebrae 25 in males, medial loop of clavicle always interrupted posteriorly, five upper labial scales in front of subocular, dorsal colouring without longitudinal stripes or series of spots and more or less reticulate even in young, no obvious blue spots on outer ventral scales. Other more widely distributed features include: supraocular osteoderms fenestrated in mature animals, seven premaxillary teeth in adults, inscriptional ribs usually absent, brightly coloured tail in hatchlings, hemipenial microornamentation of crown-shaped tubercles.

**Description.**

*Size and shape.* Small Lacertini, adults up to about 65 mm from snout to vent; little size difference between sexes; snout especially pointed, head and body very strongly depressed, toes relatively short and numbers 3–5 on hind feet particularly strongly kinked in vertical plane.

*Skull.* Seven premaxillary teeth in adults; pterygoid teeth absent; nasal process of premaxilla slender; postfrontal and postorbital bones separate and postorbital relatively short; maxillary-jugal suture not stepped. Supraocular osteoderms incomplete with a large fenestra in mature animals.

*Postcranial skeleton.* Usual number of presacral vertebrae 25 in males (occasionally 26), and 26 in females; usually six (sometimes seven or even five) posterior presacral vertebrae with short ribs; medial loop of clavicle always interrupted posteriorly; lateral arms of interclavicle more or less perpendicular to sagittal axis; sternal fontanelle oval; inscriptional ribs usually absent; pattern of tail vertebrae A- or B-type.

*Scaling.* Rostral separated from frontonasal scale; row of supraciliary granules complete; outer edge of parietal scale reaches lateral border of parietal table only posteriorly. Two postnasal scales; no contact between the supranasal and anterior loreal scales above nostril; five upper labial scales in front of subocular; first upper temporal scale usually large; masseteric scale usually present but often small and occasionally absent. Dorsal scales small, flat and rounded, about 59–76 across mid-body. Collar smooth; six longitudinal rows of ventral scales; preanal scale short and wide, bordered by a semicircle of smaller scales, the two most anterior of these often enlarged, a second incomplete row occasionally present; toes strongly compressed and numbers 3–5 on hind foot strongly kinked in the vertical plane, scales under toes tubercular; whorls of tail scales alternately longer and shorter; the two medial longitudinal scale rows under the tail much wider than those adjoining them.

*Colouring.* Body of juveniles and adults often buffish grey above (greenish or bluish in some lights) with a reticulated pattern; unregenerated tail usually with numerous alternate turquoise green and blackish transverse bands. Without blue ocelli in the shoulder region. Ventral coloration blue, often very vivid in breeding males, the throat undifferentiated; without dark spotting or distinguishable blue spots on lateral edges of the outermost belly. In highland areas and on some islands some or all animals may be very dark; in such cases, the reticulation of the upper parts is still usually apparent, but some individuals are uniformly black. Young animals like adults but tail often more vividly coloured.

*Distinctive internal features.* None.

*Hemipenis.* Lobes with plicae, apical section of each shorter than basal one, their sulcal lips small; no armature present and lobes not folded in the retracted hemipenis; hemipenial microornamentation consisting of crown-shaped tubercles.

*Chromosomes.* Diploid number  $(2n) = 38$ ; 36 single-armed macrochromosomes and 2 microchromosomes; sex chromosomes ZW-type; position of nucleolar organizer unknown.

*Reproduction.* Males bite flank of females during copulation; clutches consisting of 2–4 (usually 3–4) elongate eggs.

*Ecology.* Nearly always associated with rock surfaces or anthropogenic equivalents (walls, parapits, etc), where it takes refuge in often narrow crevices.