



Fig. 292: Mathews Range Forest Lizard *Adolfus matheusensis*, Ng'eny River, northern Mathews Range.
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Adolfus mathewsensis

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Mathews Range Forest Lizard

Description: Snout–vent length about 7 cm; total length about 17 cm. Tail long, with strongly keeled scales; a collar fold under the neck. Brown or olive on the top of the head, with the same colour extending in a broad vertebral stripe to the tail, within this stripe are scattered black spots; flanks darker than the dorsum, with dark brown and whitish blue markings; underside immaculate cream. The dorsal colouration varies with altitude and weather conditions, from dark and dull coloured at high-altitude sites or during cold and overcast weather, to brightly coloured and distinctly patterned in sunny weather.

Taxonomy: Described from the *Adolfus jacksoni* species complex, this species differs from *A. jacksoni* by having 80–90 (*vs.* 90–106) dorsal scale rows, fewer caudal scales, and more supralabials. *Adolfus kibonotensis*, on the other hand, has mostly fewer than 80 dorsal scale rows.

Range: Endemic to forested areas at moderate to high altitudes (1350–2000 m) in the Mathews Range (Mt. Warges or Uarges-Wamba Hill and Oldoinyo Lenkiyo). It might also be present on Mt. Marsabit, in the Ndoto Mountains, at Mt. Nyiru and Mt. Kulal farther to the north.

Habits: Mostly living on trees, fallen logs, but sometimes also on rock outcrops. Oviparous; feeds on insects and other arthropods.