

*Adolfus kibonotensis* (LÖNNBERG, 1907)

Mt. Kilimanjaro Forest Lizard

**Description:** Snout–vent length about 7 cm; total length about 17 cm. Build fairly robust, tail long. Tail scales strongly keeled; a collar fold under the neck. Brown or olive on the top of the head; body sometimes appearing greenish in bright sunlight; the brownish colour extends in a broad vertebral stripe to the tail, within this stripe are scattered black spots; flanks darker than the dorsum or even blackish in high-altitude specimens, with whitish or light bluish, black-edged markings; underside immaculate. The dorsal colour



Fig. 287: Jackson's Forest Lizard *Adolfus jacksoni*, North Nandi Forest.

P.K. MALONZA



Figs. 288–289: Mt. Kilimanjaro Forest Lizards *Adolfus kibonotensis*, Nairobi City Park Forest (left) and Mt. Kenya Castle Forest (right).  
P.K. MALONZA (left), W. WACHIRA (right)

varies with altitude and the weather conditions, with dark and dull colours prevailing at high altitudes or during cold and overcast weather, and bright colours with a distinct pattern during sunny weather.

**Taxonomy:** Originally described as a subspecies of *Adolfus jacksoni* BOULENGER, 1899.

**Range:** In forested areas at moderate to high altitudes (1200–3000 m a. s. l.), known from the Taita Hills, Ngulia Hills, Chyulu Hills, Mt. Kenya, Aberdares, Ngong Hills forests, Nairobi City Park Forest, Ngong Road Forest, Karura Forest, Nyambene Hills, and Laikipia Plateau forests.

**Habits:** Common spotted on trees and fallen logs. Lays eggs; feeds on insects and other arthropods.



