



Fig. 294: Green Keel-bellied Lizard *Gastropholis prasina*, juvenile, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. P.K. MALONZA



Fig. 295: Striped Keel-bellied Lizard *Gastropholis vittata*, Tanzania. S. SPAWLS

**Habits:** Secretive, living high up on trees and sheltering in holes, making detecting them difficult. They occasionally descend to the ground, where they may then be conspicuous.

**Conservation status:** Near Threatened (NT).

*Gastropholis vittata* FISCHER, 1886

Striped Keel-bellied Lizard

**Description:** Total length about 35 cm, tail about 70% of the total. Slim, with a long-prehensile tail; dorsal scales smooth, non-overlapping and granular; ventral scales keeled. Back brown to dark brown, with two dorsal and two lateral blue-white or white lines, paler below; rows of dark flecks on the lower side of the tail; a nuchal collar of white scales.

**Range:** Moist coastal forest. Known from the south coast at Diani and in the Shimba Hills National Reserve (e. g., at the main gate).

**Habits:** Quite secretive and even more arboreal than *G. prasina*, sheltering in tree and bamboo holes, but also occasionally descending to the ground. Rare and it is when they descend to the ground, that they get spotted, as is the case in Shimba Hills.