

## On a Collection of Reptiles from Palestine, Transjordan, and Sinai<sup>1</sup>

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THE following paper deals with reptiles collected on an excursion through Transjordan, southern Palestine and Sinai, from March 26 to April 4, 1936, by Dr. O. Theodor and the writer, of the Hebrew University, and Mr. H. Mendelssohn of Tel Aviv. Although our route was the ordinary one to Petra, the number of forms obtained was rather remarkable. In addition to new localities for well-known types, rare forms were taken. *Tropiocolotes steudneri* and *Leptotyphlops philippsi* were hitherto unknown from Palestine.

Our party went from Jerusalem to Amman via Jericho. From Amman we turned south, following the Hedjaz Railway via Sisah, Katrane and Hissah, to Ma'an. From Ma'an we went to Wadi Mussah, Petra and back to Ma'an. Leaving Ma'an again we followed the road to Akaba, passing through Guweira Police Station and through Wadi Jtm. We spent two days in Akaba collecting marine animals in the coral reefs. From Akaba we went north via Umm El Rashrash where we entered Egyptian territory to Ras el Nakb, El Kuntiala, Khosseima, and Auja el Khafir. From Beersheba we drove eastward for 30 kilometers, returned to Beersheba, and from there to Jerusalem.

Geological formations were seen that are rare or absent in northern Palestine, such as the rocks and sandy deserts of Nubian sandstone (Petra, Plain or Guweira): the "Hammadass," which are plains of white dusty soil covered with very coarse gravel of basalt or black flint between Hissah and Ma'an; and the primitive rocks typical of the Sinai Mountains, with an extremely impoverished fauna and flora. This latter formation extends from the southern border of the Guweira plain nearly to the summit of the Sinai desert plateau (in Ras el Nakb) interrupted only by a strip of sandy desert, the Wadi Araba. There are also desert plains and steppes with more vegetation like those of Palestine, where the predominant plants are *Anabasis*, *Suaeda*, *Haloxylon* and other Chenopodiaceae. We found such regions in the Wadi Araba and from El Kuntilla to 40 km. south of Beersheba. Long stretches of desert between Sisah and Ma'an consist of clay, interrupted by flint covered hammadass. Near Amman and east of Petra there are areas of *terra rossa* with almost Mediterranean vegetation, as in the Judaeian hills. South and east of Beersheba are large areas of clay steppe on which some barley is grown. Wadis always have a much richer flora of more mesophytic character, and species were found in them quite unusual for the general environment. *Ophiops elegans*, for example, was found in a wadi running through a desert plain with its characteristic reptile fauna (*Agama ruderata pallida* and *Eremias brevirostris*).

The list of species obtained by our party follows.

*Stenodactylus elegans* Anderson.—Two male specimens, south of Hissah, one from flint gravel covered desert, one from under stone in a wadi. March 28, 1936.

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SEASONAL FLUCTUATIONS OF LIVER LIPIDS AND GLYCOGEN IN THE  
MILOS WALL-LIZARD *PODARCIS MILENSIS*

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*Podarcis milensis* is an insular lizard species, which is endemic to the Milos Archipelago (Aegean, Greece). The species remains active all year and has a particularly small clutch size compared to the other *Podarcis* in Greece (mean clutch size 1.7 eggs). Furthermore, it exhibits a prolonged reproductive period that is accompanied by multiple clutches annually. In this study we examined: 1) whether seasonality is observed in the liver and fat body weights and 2) the role of liver lipids and glycogen. Our results indicate that in males both the liver and the fat body weights present a significant difference between the months in accordance with the gonadal cycle. In females on the contrary only the lipid index shows seasonality. In all cases minimum levels are reached during summer.

Finally, in a comparative approach, these findings are discussed with findings from *Podarcis peloponnesiaca*, a species that has a quite different reproductive strategy