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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *LYGOSOMA* FROM NORTH-WEST AUSTRALIA.

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(Figure 1.)

The lizard described below formed part of a small but interesting collection made by Mr. David G. Stead, in the Carnarvon district, north-west Australia, during the third quarter of the year 1929, all the specimens being presented to the Trustees of the Australian Museum.

Lygosoma (*Hinulia*) *breviunguis*, sp. nov.

Body slender, the distance between the end of the snout and the forelimb contained twice between the axilla and the groin. The snout is somewhat depressed, the canthus rostralis rounded, but the loreal region is nearly vertical. Lower eyelid scaly. The nostril pierced in a nasal, which is divided vertically, the lower suture joining the first labial, the upper in contact with the upper part of the anterior loreal, which is large, and curved on to the snout. There are no supranasals, the nasals forming a broad suture, thus widely separating the prefrontal from the rostral which is low and band-like. The prefrontals also form a broad median suture. The frontal is long and tapering; it is longer than its distance from the end of the snout and from the posterior border of the parietals, while its greatest width is slightly greater than that across the second supraocular, and about equal to the distance across the third. The frontoparietals are distinct and larger than the interparietal, the parietals forming a short median suture posteriorly. There are four supraoculars, the second being the largest, the three anterior ones being in contact with the frontal. There are nine supraciliaries, the first being the largest. Eight lower and eight upper labials, the sixth and seventh being below the eye; three temporals, the one joining the parietal being much the largest. Three distinct nuchals. Ear opening oval, about as large as the eye opening, the anterior border bearing four obtusely pointed lobules, the central pair being much the largest. The scales, which are smooth, are in thirty-six rows round the centre of the body, the laterals being smaller than the ventrals and dorsals, which are about equal in size. The adpressed limbs barely meet; the digits are rounded above, and keeled below, the keels being on the lamellæ, of which there are twenty-seven under the fourth toe. The claws are short and blunt. The tail is slightly compressed and nearly twice as long as head and body. There are two enlarged anal scales.

Colour (spirits).—Upper surfaces a rich brown with several longitudinal series of rectangular blackish marks, each bearing a white central line. The markings on the sides are somewhat larger than those on the back, with the white predominating, the lowest marks being irregular in shape, somewhat rounded, the black being almost absent. There are a few irregular spots on the occipital region and hind neck, and some round white ones between the shoulder and the sides of the head. There is a distinct black-bordered, white mark below and immediately behind the eye. On the tail the markings are black, and there is a fairly distinct, black-bordered, white, lateral line. There are some spots under the chin and under the tail, the remainder of the lower surfaces being immaculate.

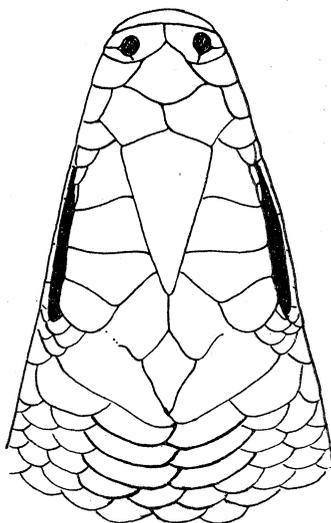


Fig. 1.—*Lygosoma* (*Hinulia*) *breviunguis*, sp. nov.

Measurements.—Total length, 237 mm.; head, 15 mm.; width of head behind eyes, 9 mm.; length of body, 70 mm.; tail, 152 mm.; fore limb, 22 mm.; hind limb, 31 mm.; axilla to groin, 53 mm.

Locality.—Carnarvon district, North-west Cape, North Australia.

Holotype, No. R.9981, in Australian Museum.

Described from a single specimen collected by Mr. David G. Stead in August, 1929.

Affinities.—*L. breviunguis* appears to be more closely allied to *L. lesueurii* than to any other species of the group, but is distinguished by the following characters: Thirty-six rows of scales, the rostral widely separated from the prefrontal by the junction of the nasals; the dorsal scales are subequal; the limbs do not overlap; the claws are very short and the digital lamellæ are keeled.