

A NEW SPECIES OF LIZARD (LACERTILIA: SCINCIDAE) FROM THE
NORTHERN TERRITORY, CLOSELY ALLIED TO *CTENOTUS*
DECANEURUS STORR.

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SUMMARY

A new species of *Ctenotus* is described. It is ecologically and morphologically distinct from *C. decaneurus*, its nearest congener. Current data suggest that it is restricted to coastal alluvial plains whereas *C. decaneurus* inhabits stony hill country.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Ctenotus* (Storr, 1964) is large and widespread throughout continental Australia. Of the forty-six currently recognised species in the genus, twenty-nine have been described in recent years by Dr. Glen Storr in reviews of the genus in the western half of the continent (Storr 1969, 1970, 1971, 1974, 1975). Although the genus is already large, one can anticipate further additions, especially in eastern Australia.

The species described below was collected by the author in the Northern Territory in 1975. Initially two apparently distinct species of *Ctenotus*, readily separable under field conditions, both keyed out on morphological criteria to *Ctenotus decaneurus* (Storr, 1970). Further study revealed that *C. decaneurus* was described from material encompassing the two taxa, and that both have until now, been regarded as a single species.

The new member of this species-pair is described below, together with some limited information on its distribution and habitat preferences. In view of the fact that the status of *Ctenotus decaneurus* (*sensu* Storr 1970, 1975) is now changed, this latter species is re-defined and information provided on its habitat and distribution.

The new species is named in honour of Dr. Glen Storr in recognition of his contribution to our understanding of the taxonomy of the genus *Ctenotus*.

***Ctenotus storri* sp. nov.**

Figs 1, 2, 3, 7

Ctenotus decaneurus (part) Storr, 1970, J. Proc. R. Soc. West. Aust., 52 (4): 104.

Ctenotus decaneurus (part) Storr, 1975, Rec. West. Aust. Mus., 3 (3): 234.

HOLOTYPE: R745 (formerly NTR 303), an adult female in the Australian National Wildlife Collection, C.S.I.R.O. Division of Wildlife Research, Canberra, A.C.T. Collected by J. Wombey, 23rd July, 1972 at Tapa Bay, Cox Peninsula, Northern Territory in Lat: 12°27'S, Long: 130°37'E.