

A TAXONOMIC REVISION OF THE GENUS *MENETIA* (LACERTILIA, SCINCIDAE) IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

PETER R. RANKIN*,

12 Finlays Ave.,
Earlwood N.S.W.

ABSTRACT

The genus *Menetia* in the Northern Territory comprises three species: *M. alanae* sp. nov., *M. greyii* (Gray), and *M. maini* Storr. *M. zynja* Ingram, first described from Queensland is synonymized with *M. maini* Storr.

INTRODUCTION

Recently, the genus *Menetia* has come under scrutiny (Storr, 1976; Ingram, 1977) with the result that a previously monotypic genus now has five species allotted to it. The above studies dealt only with *Menetia* from Western Australia and Queensland. The present study examines *Menetia* from the Northern Territory in which there are representatives from both Western Australia and Queensland.

Storr (1976) provided a definition of the genus *Menetia* which was later amended by Ingram (1977), and all species considered here are within the genus as defined by Storr (1976). The term presuboculars is used in the present paper to refer to the scale or scales located in a diagonal line between the posterior loreal and the subocular labial (Fig. 1). Allometric changes in *Menetia* head shape are great, and in juveniles a presubocular scale may be confused with a loreal scale, giving the impression that three loreals are present, when in fact all *Menetia* have only two loreal scales on each side. The enlarged circumocular granule referred to by Storr (1976) and Ingram (1977) is also shown in Figure 1. (Although *Menetia surda* is not found in the Northern Territory, it is figured because it demonstrates well the variation in head shield configuration expressed in the genus.)

The specimens used in this study are lodged in the Australian Museum (AM); the Australian National Wildlife Collection (ANWC); the National Museum of Victoria (NMV); the collection held at the Arid Zone Research Institute, Alice Springs (NTM — A/S); the Northern Territory Museum, Darwin (NTM); the South Australian Museum (SAM); the Western Australian Museum (WAM); and Mr Harry Ehmman's personal collection, which will be lodged in the SAM (HFWE).

TAXONOMY

Key to the species in the genus *Menetia* occurring in the Northern Territory.

1. (a) Second supraciliary much larger than first, contacting prefrontal, thus precluding contact between first supraciliary and first supraocular 2

*Deceased, 2nd January, 1979.