

Key to the Native Species of Lizards of the Eastern United States (East of the Mississippi River)

This Key includes introduced species that have become widespread and abundant in at least some of the eastern states.

indicates introduced species widespread in some areas

* indicates Pennsylvania native

- 1 Legs present.....6
- 1' Legs absent.....2

- 2 Tympanum visible externally, body with lateral fold.....Anguidae...3
- 2' Tympanum absent (Florida only).....Amphisbaenidae...Rhineura floridana

- 3 Longitudinal stripes present below lateral fold, middorsal stripe present, dark marks under tail.....Ophisaurus attenuatus
- 3' Longitudinal stripes absent below lateral fold, tail unmarked ventrally.....4

- 4 Middorsal stripe present, one or two upper labials extend upward to orbit.....5
- 4' Middorsal stripe absent, no labials enter orbit, adults often a greenish color.....Ophisaurus ventralis

- 5 One lateral stripe above lateral fold.....Ophisaurus compressus
- 5' Three lateral stripes above lateral fold.....Ophisaurus mimicus

- 6 No eyelids, eyes permanently open.....Gekkonidae...7
- 6' Eyelids present.....8

- 7 Size small, head pointed, a single round pad at the tip of the toesSphaerodactylus#
(Several species of this genus are now found in southern peninsular Florida, most or all of which are introduced species. Distinguishing among these species is beyond the scope of this key)
- 7' Size small to large, head not pointed, expanded lamellae on ventral surface of digits.....Hemidactylus turcicus#

- 8 Scales smooth, rounded distally, and overlapping.....Scincidae...9
- 8' Scales granular, or keeled and pointed distally.....15

- 9 Legs very short, no more than two digits per leg, lower eyelid with translucent window (Florida only).....Neoseps reynoldsi
- 9' Legs longer, more than 2 toes per foot, lower eyelid with or without translucent window.....10

- 10 No supranasal scales, lower eyelid with translucent window, no longitudinal light stripes.....Scincella lateralis
- 10' Supranasal scales present, lower eyelids scaly throughout.....Eumeces..11

- 11 Two or four dorsal light stripes present.....12
- 11' Either no dorsal stripes, or five dorsal stripes present.....13
- 12 Tail with red or brown coloration.....Eumeces egregius
- 12' Tail without red or brown color.....Eumeces anthracinus*
- 13 Scales on ventral surface of tail of uniform size.....Eumeces inexpectatus
- 13' Midventral scale row enlarged.....14
- 14 Four labial scales anterior to subocular, 2 enlarged postlabial scales...Eumeces fasciatus*
- 14' Five labial scales anterior to subocular, no enlarged postlabial scales...Eumeces laticeps*
- 15 Dorsal scales granular, belly scales enlarged plates arranged in longitudinal rows.....
.....Teiidae...Cnemidophorus sexlineatus
- 15' Dorsal scales granular or not, belly scales not a series of enlarged plates arranged in
longitudinal rows.....Iguanidae...16
- 16 Dorsal scales small, granular, nonoverlapping.....Anolis...17
- 16' Dorsal scales large, imbricate, and pointed distally.....Sceloporus...18
- 17 Color brown or green, dewlap pink.....Anolis carolinensis
- 17' Color brown, dewlap orange with yellow border.....Anolis sagrei
- 17" Color gray or tan, dewlap yellow.....Anolis distichus
- 18 Pattern of dark crossbars or chevron-like markings dorsally, no broad dorsolateral stripe
.....Sceloporus undulatus*
- 18' Pattern of dark dorsal chevrons present or absent, broad, dorsolateral stripe (Florida only)
.....Sceloporus woodi