

Revision of the Species Previously Associated with the Australian Scincid Lizard *Eulamprus tenuis*

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ABSTRACT. *Eulamprus tenuis*, a moderate-sized, robust-limbed skink from the east coast of Australia, is shown to be a composite of five species, only three of which have available names. All five species are reviewed taxonomically and a resumé of their general natural history is provided.

GREER, A.E., 1992. Revision of the species previously associated with the Australian scincid lizard *Eulamprus tenuis*. Records of the Australian Museum 44(1): 7–19.

This is a review of the alpha taxonomy of the species either currently or recently confused with *Eulamprus tenuis*, a saxicolous/arboreal, shade-loving to crepuscular scincid lizard of the woodlands and forests of the east coast of Australia. The most recent review of the Australian herpetofauna recognises only one species with two subspecies (Cogger, 1986). However, there are five species, only three of which have names. This paper reviews this complex of species and describes the unnamed species.

Definitions and Abbreviations

Two scales systems require special definition for the purposes of this paper. Nuchal scales are all those transversely enlarged paravertebral scales behind the parietal scale which either touch the parietal or touch another enlarged paravertebral; the nuchal scale count is the total number of nuchal scales on both sides.

Subdigital lamellae are all those scales on the ventral

surface of the fourth toe of the pes counted between the claw and the level of the bifurcation of the third and fourth digits.

Abbreviations used are: AM – Australian Museum; MNHP – Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris; NP – National Park; NHRM – Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm; NS – not significant statistically at the .05 level; QM – Queensland Museum; QNPWS – Queensland National parks and Wildlife Service; SF – State Forest.

One, two or three asterisks indicates probability levels of .05, .01 and .001, respectively.

Table 1 is contained in the Appendix.

The Phylogenetic Relationships of the *Eulamprus tenuis* Complex

There is no particular reason to think that the species previously confused under the name *Eulamprus tenuis* are the closest living relatives of each other, apart from their general similarity. They show only three clearly