

Pedioplanis lineocellata lineocellata
(Duméril & Bibron, 1839)

SPOTTED SAND LIZARD

Andrew A. Turner

Regional: Least Concern

Taxonomy: There is some genetic structure within *P. lineocellata*. Makokha *et al.* (2007) used molecular techniques to show that the currently recognised subspecies (*lineocellata*, *pulchella*), as well as an undescribed form from Limpopo, may all represent distinct species (but see comments under *P. l. pulchella* below). Branch (1998) noted morphological differences between the three named subspecies, *lineocellata*, *pulchella* and *inocellata*.

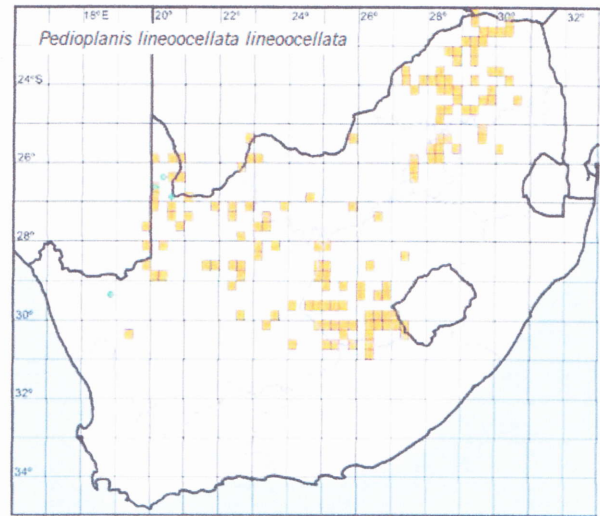
Distribution: Endemic to southern Africa where it is widely distributed. Found from the northern parts of Namibia and Botswana to Limpopo in the northeast and the Karoo in the south (Branch 1998). In the *Atlas* region it occurs in the South African provinces of Limpopo, Mpumalanga (northern half), Gauteng, North-West, Free State, Northern Cape, and the extreme northern parts of the Eastern Cape. The most westerly locality (2918BD) in the *Atlas* region is a VM record.

Habitat: Prefers dry, open vegetation.

Biome: Savanna; Grassland; Nama-Karoo.

Assessment rationale: Very widespread and tolerant of many agricultural activities. Not considered threatened. It is unlikely that any of the taxa contained within *P. lineocellata* (see *Taxonomy* above) would qualify for threatened status.

Conservation measures: None recommended.



Pedioplanis lineocellata lineocellata—Tswalu Kalahari Reserve, NC
W. Conradie