





*Acanthodactylus blanfordii* BOULENGER, 1918  
Blanford's Fringe-toed Lizard

**Synonymy**

*Acanthodactylus cantoris* var. *blanfordii* BOULENGER, 1918

*Acanthodactylus cantoris blanfordii* – SMITH, 1935

*Acanthodactylus blanfordii* – SALVADOR, 1982

**Range.** South-eastern Iran, southern Afghanistan, Pakistan (Baluchistan), Oman, UAE.

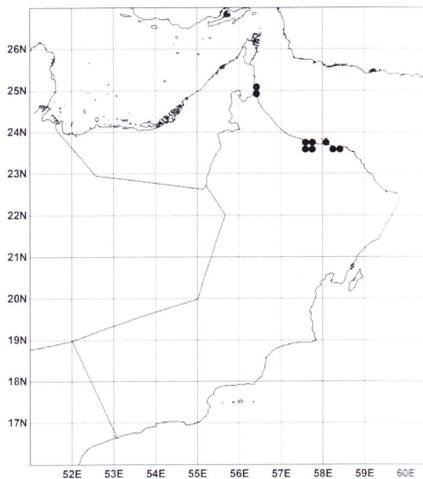
**Size.** Up to 75 mm SVL.

**Identification.** A medium-sized fringe-toed lizard with a dorsal pattern of longitudinally arranged pale and dark spots. The general form, including the snout, is moderately robust, and the lateral fringes on the third and fourth toes are readily apparent, though not strongly developed. There are four longitudinal lines of scales around third and fourth fingers. Usually five upper labials anterior to subocular.

The subocular is separated from the lip. One row of granules between supraoculars and superciliaries. 11–13 ventral scales in longest row across belly. Dorsal scales keeled. 27–46 across mid-back. 27–38 gular scales on median line.

Colour and pattern somewhat variable. The dorsal back ground-colour is buff to reddish-brown, with six or seven longitudinal rows of pale spots. These spots may coalesce to form pale stripes, especially immediately posterior to the head, and over the pelvic region. There are also series of darker or blackish spots between the pale ones, sometimes also forming stripes. Hind limbs have dark-ringed pale spots. Head more or less uniform, brown. Tail with black spotting dorsally and laterally.

**Biology.** A diurnal, ground-dwelling lacertid. They hunt for insects and other invertebrate prey using both passive and active hunting techniques. Sexual maturity is reached in one year, and they breed in summer. When disturbed they retreat under small shrubs where they are hard to see, or dive down into their oval-shaped burrows. On hot sand they raise their toes off the surface. They have been observed to wave their tails laterally and display their tongues during intraspecific encounters.



**Habitat.** Sandy coastal plains and low dunes with sparse vegetation. May forage on the beach and beach crest.

**Distribution.** In Oman it has been recorded only from the Batinah coastal plain, from Muscat to Khatmat Malaha on the UAE border. Its range extends across the UAE border to include the sandy area and spit south of Khor Kalba.

**Pertinent references.** ANDERSON 1999, ARNOLD 1983, GARDNER 2005a, SALVADOR 1982.



Fig. 203: *Acanthodactylus blanfordii*, Kalba, UAE.



Fig. 204: *Acanthodactylus blanfordii*, Ras al Sawadi, Batinah, Oman.

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Fig. 205: *Acanthodactylus blanfordii*, Seeb, Oman.