



Fig. 208: *Acanthodactylus boskianus*, Yanqul, Ad Dhahirah, Oman.



Fig. 209: *Acanthodactylus felicis*, Dhofar, Oman.

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Fig. 210: *Acanthodactylus felicis*, Dhofar, Oman.

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Fig. 211: *Acanthodactylus felicis* sub-adult with bluish tail, near Marbat, Dhofar, Oman.

Acanthodactylus felicis ARNOLD, 1980
South Arabian Fringe-toed Lizard

Synonymy

None.

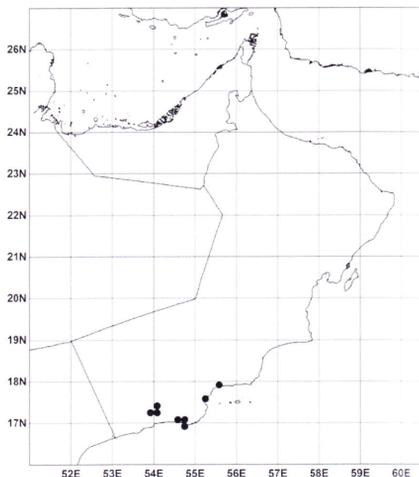
Range. South Arabia: Yemen and Oman (Dhofar).

Size. Up to 65 mm SVL.

Identification. A medium sized fringe-toed lizard with a longitudinally striped dorsal pattern. The general form is moderately robust and the snout is fairly pointed. One row of granules between supraoculars and superciliaries. There are three longitudinal rows of scales along the third and fourth fingers. Subdigital scales with one keel. Pectination on toes moderate. Subocular separated from lip. Four upper labials anterior to subocular. Eyelids strongly pectinate. Temporals weakly keeled. Dorsal scales coarse, keeled and imbricate posteriorly, 33–42 at mid-body. Eight (occasionally 10) ventral scale rows at mid-body.

Colour and pattern variable. Typically juveniles and sub-adults are more strongly striped than adults, with a mid-dorsal dark stripe and three pairs of lateral dark stripes on each side, the most lateral being narrower. The mid-dorsal stripe bifurcates anteriorly and extends from the back of the head to above the vent. The more medial lateral stripes come together over the base of the tail. The back ground-colour is buff or off-white, and the stripes are blackish, grey or brown. With age, the dark stripes become progressively fainter, with buff or whitish breaks developing in them. In some individuals the longitudinal pattern is almost obscured. The hind limbs are heavily spotted with dark bordered white ocelli. The dorsal surface of the head is mainly uniform. Juveniles have a blue tinge to their tails.

Biology. A diurnal, ground-dwelling lacertid, with little recorded information. They hunt for insects and other invertebrate prey using both passive and active hunting techniques. On hot sand they raise their toes off the surface. They run very fast between areas of cover such as small shrubs, where they dig burrows.



Habitat. Sandy habitats with some vegetation, including sandy wadi beds and hollows in dry hilly areas and sandy plains behind the beach crest.

Distribution. In Dhofar, this species has been recorded from the Jebel Qara and Jebel Samhan foothills, Ayun area, coastal areas near Marbat, and further east, reaching almost to Shuwaymiah.

Pertinent references. ARNOLD 1980a, 1983.



Fig. 212: *Acanthodactylus felicis*, Dhofar, Oman.