

**Table 1.** A comparison of specimens of *Amphisbaena fuliginosa* from Grenada and St. Lucia with those from Trinidad. The range includes published data taken from the literature.

Location	Grenada	St. Lucia	Trinidad	Range
	(N = 1)	(N = 1)	(N = 12)	—
Total length (mm)	395	290	179–395	174–425
Tail (mm)	51	35	33–66	33–66
Tail/SVL	0.15	0.14	0.13–0.17	0.11–0.17
Body annuli	199	199	195–210	186–212
Tail annuli	21	26	21–28	21–28
Pre-anal pores	6	9	6–11	6–11
Number of supralabials	3/3	3/2	nd	2–3
Number of infralabials	6/3	3/2	nd	3–6
Supralabials contact ocular	y	n	y/n	both
Supralabials contact prefrontal	y	n	y/n	both
Tail constriction	y	y	y	

# The African Five-lined Skink, *Trachylepis quinquetaeniata* (Lichtenstein 1823): A New Established Species in Florida

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Photographs by the senior author.

From 2–4 April 2010, KLK and SAJ took six students from their University of Florida’s Invasion Ecology of Amphibians and Reptiles class on a field trip to southern Florida. On 4 April 2010 at 1145–1230 h, under mostly sunny skies, 25 °C, 57% humidity, and 12 mph ESE winds, we visited a warehouse district across the street from where a reptile dealer was formerly in business in Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, Florida. We surveyed a 4-block area from a vacant lot at N 27.29225° W -80.36766° (datum WGS84) to the north, SW Sea Holly Terrace to the south, SW Biltmore Street to the east, and SW South Macedo Boulevard to the west. On 20 June 2010 from 1045–1130 h, under mostly sunny skies, 32 °C, 66% humidity, and 10.4 mph E winds, KLK, JPB, and CAS revisited this site. Specimens were collected opportunistically by hand and deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH), University of Florida (UF) collection.

We discovered a previously undocumented introduced lizard species, identified as the African Five-lined Skink, *Trachylepis quinquetaeniata* (Lichtenstein 1823). Digital images of our live and preserved specimens, along with additional images of live animals that were not collected, were sent to colleagues who confirmed our identification (W. Böhme and A.M. Bauer, pers. comm.).

During our initial 45-min daytime survey on 4 April 2010, we recorded 46 different juveniles and adults, suggesting reproduction and a well-established population. Lizards were readily observed basking on

concrete slabs and curbs, in asphalt parking lots, along buildings, and at the bases of trees, but we also found individuals under concrete slabs and wooden boards. When pursued, most of the lizards ran swiftly under debris or escaped into holes in the sides of buildings. One individual climbed >4.5



An adult male African Five-lined Skink basking on a concrete slab in Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, Florida. This individual was not collected.





The presence of neonate African Five-lined Skinks, such as this individual (UF 157937), provides strong evidence of reproduction by the population in Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, Florida.



Adult male (left) and female (right) African Five-lined Skinks basking on an asphalt parking lot in Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, Florida. These individuals were not collected.

m up a tree. We successfully captured only 5 (9.2%) of the individuals observed. Although our second survey lasted as long as our initial survey, nearly the entire time was dedicated to capturing at least one neonate to provide evidence of reproduction. Voucher specimens include UF 157446–50 and UF 157936–7.

*Trachylepis quinquetaeniata* has a wide native distribution in eastern, central, and western Africa, from Kenya through the arid sub-Saharan belt west to Senegal (Spawls et al. 2002), and has at least one non-indigenous population in Egypt (Kraus 2009). This species is diurnal and found in rocky and grassland habitats, on trees, in holes, as well as on man-made objects (i.e., houses and bridges), at elevations of 200–1,600 m (Spawls et al. 2002).

The mode of introduction for *Trachylepis quinquetaeniata* in Florida is via the pet trade. In April 2005, JPB visited the former pet dealer's warehouse (directly across the street from our study site) while it was still in business. He observed 6–7 dead skinks on the ground that appeared to have been thrown out the back door. This is nothing novel, as many non-indigenous herpetofaunal species have been illegally introduced in Florida by dealers simply dumping sick or unwanted animals (e.g., King and

Krakauer 1966). Because *Trachylepis quinquetaeniata* is non-indigenous to Florida and still highly localized, we suggest that eradication efforts should be attempted immediately before this population expands.

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Subadult male (UF 157447) African Five-lined Skink, *Trachylepis quinquetaeniata*, from Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, Florida.