

CTENOTUS HELENAE (Helen's Comb-Eared Skink). **HERMAPHRODITISM.** On 20 November 2008, SEG and ERP caught a hermaphroditic adult *Ctenotus helenae* (88 mm SVL, 14.1 g, 117 mm tail with an 87 mm regenerated portion) in a pitfall trap at their Red Sands study site (28.19397°S, 123.58247°E, datum WGS 84; elev. 430 m) in the Great Victoria Desert of Western Australia. During examination for sexual condition and diet, the specimen was found to have a regular testicle on its right side but an ovotestis on its left side. The latter consisted of a smaller testicle with a cluster of ovarian follicles attached antero-laterally. The follicle cluster was separated from the left testicle by a thin brown sheet of tissue not typically present on the gonads of this species. The right testicle measured (maximum width × length) 5.0 × 10.4 mm, the left testicle was 3.5 × 6.8 mm, and the four ovarian follicles were all between 0.9 and 3.0 mm in maximum diameter. The left half of the cloaca lacked a hemipenis but the right hemipenis was everted. Functionality as a male seems likely due to the fully developed appearance of the testicles and everted right hemipenis. The lizard appeared normal

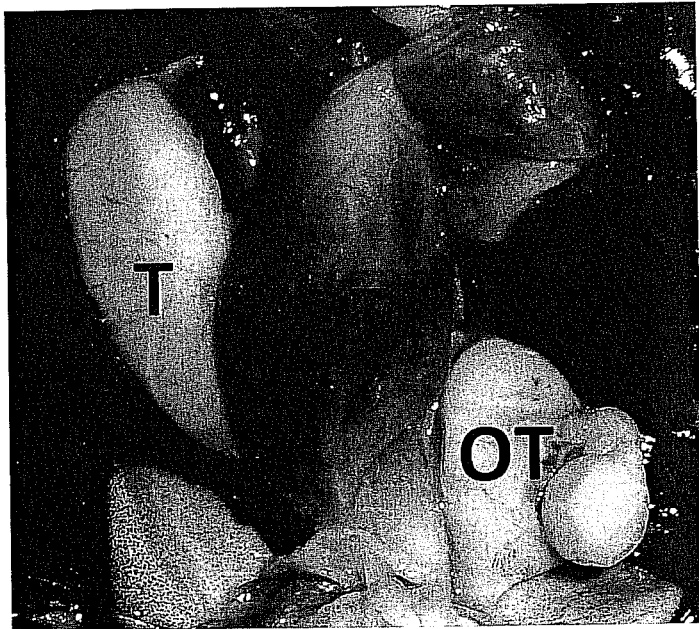


FIG. 1. Posteroventral body cavity of a hermaphroditic *Ctenotus helenae*. Labels indicate the testis (T), ovotestis (OT) and digestive tract (DT). Photograph by S. Goodyear.

and uninjured besides the regenerated tail and a few missing scales. Horner (1991. Skinks of the Northern Territory. Northern Territory Government Printing Office. Darwin, Australia. 174 pp.) reports a maximum 95.0 mm SVL for this species. Of conspecifics collected by ERP, fresh SVL (mm) for 60 males averaged 76.6 with a maximum of 95.0 whereas fresh SVL for 83 females averaged 83.3 with a maximum of 98.0. These data show the hermaphrodite is typical but larger in size. The skink was captured during the September–February breeding season for the species (Horner, *op. cit.*).

Few reports of intersex observations among lizards exist. Tayler (1918. Proc. Zool. Soc. London 1918:223–230) described a *Lacerta viridis* with both left and right ovotestes. Badir (1958. Zeit. Wiss. Zool. 160:290–351) found a *Chalcides ocellatus* with a right gonad containing mostly ovarian follicles attached to a nonfunctional testicular rudiment. Bons and Bons (1969. C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris 268:695–696) reported an *Ophisaurus koelikeri* with a full set of male and female reproductive structures. Darevsky et al. (1978. Copeia 1978:201–207) found a *Lacerta armeniaca* with a right ovotestis. Goldberg (1989. Copeia 1989:486–488) reported a *Sceloporus occidentalis* with left and right ovotestes consisting of testes attached to ovarian follicles clustered anteriorly and Brown (2008. Biawak 2008:87–88) described a *Varanus acanthurus* with a right testicle and left ovary, oviducts and uterine tissue. In our case, ERP collected and examined nearly 30,000 lizards before we found this exceptional one.

We deposited the specimen in the Western Australian Museum (WAM R169499). We thank Marc Hayes and Jackson Shedd for comments on the manuscript.

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