

Squamata M. Oppel 1811 [K. de Queiroz and J. A. Gauthier], converted clade name

Registration Number: 101

Definition: The largest crown clade containing *Lacerta agilis* Linnaeus 1758 but not *Sphenodon* (originally *Hatteria*) *punctatus* (Gray 1842). This is a maximum-crown-clade definition. Abbreviated definition: max crown ∇ (*Lacerta agilis* Linnaeus 1758 ~ *Sphenodon punctatus* (Gray 1842)).

Etymology: Derived from the Latin *squama* (scale) + *-ata* (provided with), thus, “scaled.”

Reference Phylogeny: Figure 1 of Gauthier et al. (2012) is the primary reference phylogeny (see also Estes et al. 1988: Fig. 6; Lee, 1998: Figs. 1–2; Conrad, 2008: Fig. 56); however, our definition has been formulated so that it will apply to a clade of identical composition in the context of phylogenies based on molecular (e.g., Townsend et al., 2004: Fig. 8; Vidal and Hedges, 2005: Fig. 1; Wiens et al., 2010: Fig. 4; Pyron et al., 2013: Fig. 1) and combined morphological and molecular data (Reeder et al., 2015: Fig. 1; Simões et al., 2018: Fig. 2) that differ regarding relationships within *Squamata* (see Composition and Comments). Although *Lacerta agilis* is not included in the primary reference phylogeny, it is most closely related to *Lacerta viridis* of the taxa included in that tree (see Baeckens et al., 2015).

Composition: *Squamata* was hypothesized by Estes et al. (1988; see also Gauthier, 1982) to be composed of two primary extant subclades, *Iguania* and *Scleroglossa*, and those subclades have been corroborated by subsequent analyses based on morphological data (e.g., Lee, 1998; Conrad, 2008; Gauthier et al.,

2012). By contrast, analyses based on DNA-sequence data place the root of the squamatan tree within “*Scleroglossa*,” usually with either *Dibamidae* or *Gekkota*, or a clade composed of both taxa, as the sister to all other squamatans (e.g., Townsend et al., 2004; Vidal and Hedges, 2005; Wiens et al., 2010; Pyron et al., 2013; Reeder et al., 2015). In the context of these alternative hypotheses, the two primary extant subclades are different and in one case have been given the names *Dibamia* and *Bifurcata* (Vidal and Hedges, 2005). *Squamata* is composed of 10,078 currently recognized extant species (Uetz, 2016), thus rivaling *Aves* and surpassing its sister clade, *Sphenodon* (with only one currently recognized extant species), by four orders of magnitude. Somewhat dated lists of extinct species are available for *Serpentes* (Rage, 1984) and for non-*Serpentes*, non-mosasaurodromian *Squamata* (Estes, 1983).

Diagnostic Apomorphies: Gauthier et al. (1988) listed 69 + 5 (addendum) putative synapomorphies of *Squamata* relative to other extant diapsids, which are also diagnostic relative to most other extinct diapsids given that so few potential stem squamatans have been identified (see *Pan-Squamata* in this volume). Estes et al. (1988) added 18 potential synapomorphies that have reversed in some squamatans. Gauthier et al. (2012) listed only 59, including 20 that are shared with the putative stem squamatan *Huehuecuetzpalli mixtecus* (see *Pan-Squamata*, this volume), but this lower number reflects the near-absence of soft anatomical characters in their study. Some of the most obvious diagnostic apomorphies are paired male intromittent organs (hemipenes), loss of caruncle (false egg tooth), mobile fronto-parietal

joint (modified in fossorial forms and mosasauroids), embryonic fusion of parietals (reversed in some gekkotans, some xantusiids, and *Sineoamphisbaena hexatabularis*), mobile quadrate with peg-in-socket squamosal-quadrate articulation (lost in chameleons and modified in snakes), pterygoids and vomers separated by palatines (reversed in some amphisbaenians and some polyglyphanodontians), very slender stapes (reversed in some fossorial forms), slender epipterygoid, subdivision of embryonic metotic fissure into vagus (jugular) foramen posteriorly and recessus scalae tympani anteriorly, embryonic or early post-embryonic (dibamids and some xantusiids) fusion of exoccipitals and opisthotics, coronoid eminence formed by coronoid bone only (reversed in some snakes and some amphisbaenians), keeled cervical intercentra, all ribs (including cervicals) single-headed, procoelous vertebrae (reversed in some gekkotans), absence of trunk intercentra (reversed in some gekkotans and full-grown xantusiids), emarginated scapulocoracoid (reversed in *Heloderma*, amphisbaenians, chameleons, some dolichosaurs, some dibamids, some pygopodids), and absence of gastralria.

Synonyms: Numerous approximate synonyms of *Squamata* match the modern concept to various degrees in terms of composition. *Squamosa* of Latreille (1825, except for the inclusion of caecilians), *Saurophidia* of Blainville (1835), *Reptilia* of Bonaparte (1840, 1841), *Streptostylica* of Stannius (1856) and Cope (1900), *Lepidosauria* and *Diplophalli* of Haeckel (1866, inclusion of *Sphenodon* unclear), *Pholidota* of Haeckel (1895), *Sauria* of Gadow (1898, 1901), and *Lyognathi* and *Lyognatha* of Jaekel (1911) refer to a taxon of more or less identical composition.

Sauria of MaCartney (1802) and others (some of whom included caecilians), *Saurii* of Kuhl (1820) and others, *Gradientia* of Merrem

(1820) and Haworth (1825), *Sauri* of Gray (1825), *Pedata*, *Tetrapoda*, and *Communipedis* of Haworth (1825), *Saurae* of Gray (1827) and Wagler (1828), *Lacertae* of Wagler (1830) and others, *Lacertiformes* of Bonaparte (1831), *Lacertina* of Müller (1831), *Squamati* of Wiegmann (1834), *Saures* of Swainson (1839), *Lacertilia* of Owen (1842 [including *Rhynchosaurus articeps*]), 1866) and others, *Saura* of Gray (1845), *Lacertia* of Owen (1845), *Kionocrania* of Stannius (1856) and Huxley (1886), *Lepidota* of Jan (1857), *Autosaurii* of Gegenbaur (1859), *Autosauria* of Haeckel (1866), *Lacertilia vera* of Boulenger (1884, 1885–7), *Eusauri* of Gadow (1898), *Autosauri* of Gadow (1898, 1901), *Lacerti* of Jaekel (1911), *Lacertosauria* of Tornier (1913), and *Lacertidae* of Nopcsa (1923) are partial as well as approximate synonyms that refer to taxa that exclude various highly modified squamatans, such as snakes, amphisbaenians, other serpentiform species, and chameleons (in various combinations).

Other partial (and approximate) synonyms were used for a paraphyletic group made up of *Iguania* and *Gekkota*, which is associated with the same ancestor as *Squamata* on the reference phylogeny (but not on some of those based on molecular data—see Reference Phylogeny). These include *Pachyglossi* of Bonaparte (1840), *Amblyglossae* of Fitzinger (1843), *Pachyglossae* of Gray (1845), *Ascalabota* of Camp (1923), and *Iguaniformes* of Hay (1930), although Gray's (1845) *Pachyglossae* might alternatively be considered a partial synonym of *Lepidosauria* given that it included *Sphenodon punctatus*. Still other partial synonyms were used for a doubly paraphyletic group that excluded both *Autarchoglossa* and *Chamaeleonidae*; these include *Ascalabotae* of Merrem (1820), *Ascolabata* of Gray (1825), *Inextensilinguis* of Haworth (1825), *Pachyglossae* of Weigmann (1834), and *Pachyglossa* of Strauch (1887; who also included *Xenosaurus* and *Heloderma*).

Comments: Many eighteenth and early nineteenth century naturalists based their primary groupings within ectothermic tetrapods (*Amphibia* of some authors, *Reptilia* of others) on mode of locomotion, separating the slitherers with small or no limbs (*Serpentes*, *Ophidia*, and variants of those names) from the limbed-propelled walkers and crawlers (*Gradientia*, *Reptilia*, and variants of those names). Thus, squamatans with well-developed limbs (“typical lizards”) were commonly grouped with crocodilians and sometimes with turtles and even salamanders and frogs, rather than with snakes, while those with long bodies and reduced limbs (e.g., *Anguis*, *Amphisbaena*, and sometimes even the amphibian *Caecilia*) were considered “snakes” (e.g., Linnaeus, 1758; Laurenti, 1768; Scopoli, 1777). The “lizards” (under various names) were first separated from turtles (e.g., Brongniart, 1800; Cuvier, 1800; Daudin, 1802–1803) and later from crocodilians (e.g., Blainville, 1816, 1822; Merrem, 1820; Gray, 1825). Derivation of snakes from within “lizards” was inferred by several authors (e.g., Haeckel, 1866; Camp, 1923; McDowell and Bogert, 1954), and the formal abandonment of the paraphyletic group “lizards”, by that time usually referred to as either *Sauria* or *Lacertilia*, was proposed by Estes et al. (1988). Although the paraphyly of “lizards” (relative to both snakes and amphisbaenians) is now highly corroborated and widely acknowledged, the group continues to be treated as a taxonomic unit, although no longer given a formal name (e.g., Vitt and Caldwell, 2014; Pough et al., 2016; Crother, 2017).

Despite the long history of treating “lizards” and snakes as separate taxa, a close relationship between them has also been recognized for a long time. The first author to recognize and name a taxon composed exclusively of “lizards” (including amphisbaenians) and snakes appears to have been Blainville (1816), who used the

French vernacular name *Bispeniens* in reference to the hemipenes, which are still considered diagnostic (see Diagnostic Apomorphies). The taxon was recognized inconsistently under a variety of names by nineteenth century authors (e.g., Blainville, 1822, 1835; Latreille, 1825; Haworth, 1825; Fitzinger, 1826; Gray, 1831a; Bonaparte, 1840, 1841, 1850; Stannius, 1856; Zittel, 1887–1890; Cope, 1889; Haeckel, 1895), but during the twentieth century it was recognized more consistently under the name *Squamata* (e.g., Cope, 1900; Hay, 1902; Williston, 1917, 1925; Camp, 1923; Nopcsa, 1923; Romer, 1933, 1945, 1956, 1966; Gans, 1978; Estes, 1983; Estes et al., 1988; Lee, 1998), a use that continues in the present century (e.g., Conrad, 2008; Wiens et al., 2010; Gauthier et al., 2012). Several early explicit phylogenetic analyses based on morphology supported squamatan monophyly (e.g., Rage, 1982; Benton, 1985; Gauthier et al., 1988; Evans, 1988), a result that has been corroborated by subsequent molecular and combined morphological and molecular studies (e.g., Townsend et al., 2004; Hugall et al., 2007; Albert et al., 2009; Reeder et al., 2015; Simões et al., 2018).

The name *Squamata* was first used by Oppel (1811), who applied it to a group composed of “lizards” (including crocodilians) and snakes. Crocodilians (*Loricata*), were removed from *Squamata* by Merrem (1820; see also Blainville, 1816), thus more closely approximating the modern composition of the taxon, and this proposal was followed by most subsequent authors who recognized a taxon designated by that name (e.g., Haworth, 1825; Fitzinger, 1826; Gray, 1831a; Bonaparte, 1841 [as a synonym]; Gravenhorst, 1843 [though he excluded snakes]; Gray, 1844, 1845 [though he excluded amphisbaenians]; Bonaparte, 1850). When *Sphenodon punctatus* (tuatara) was first described (Gray, 1831b), it was considered an agamid “lizard” and thus implicitly part of *Squamata*.

Cope (1864) separated *Sphenodon* (= *Hatteria*) from *Agamidae* as *Hatteriidae*, and Günther (1867) further separated it from all “lizards” (“*Lacertilia*”) as *Rhynchocephalia*, though both authors retained *Sphenodon* within *Squamata*. Cope (1875) increased the separation further still by including extinct taxa (*Protorosauridae* and *Rhynchosauridae*) within *Rhynchocephalia*, not recognizing *Squamata*, and placing turtles between *Rhynchocephalia* and “lizards” (and snakes) in his taxonomy. However, he later (Cope, 1889) recognized *Squamata* as a group including “lizards” and snakes but excluding *Sphenodon*, and this arrangement has been adopted by most authors since the beginning of the twentieth century (e.g., Cope, 1900; Williston, 1917, 1925; Nopcsa, 1923; Romer, 1933, 1945, 1956, 1966; McDowell and Bogert, 1954; Gans, 1978; Estes, 1983; Estes et al., 1988; Lee, 1998, 2005; Conrad, 2008).

Squamata is clearly the most appropriate name for the clade in question. Other candidate names (see *Synonyms*) either have seldom been used since the eighteenth century (e.g., *Saurophidia*, *Streptostylica*, *Lyognathi*), are more appropriately applied to different clades (e.g., *Pholidota*, *Reptilia*, *Lepidosauria*), or were used (most commonly) for a paraphyletic group associated with the same ancestor (e.g., *Sauria*, *Lacertilia*) and thus do not correspond as closely in terms of composition (*Squamata* itself was used in this way by Gravenhorst, 1843, and Haeckel, 1866). Moreover, the name *Squamata* has previously been defined phylogenetically as designating the same (crown) clade to which it is applied here (Estes et al., 1988; Lee, 1998), although it has sometimes been applied implicitly to a more inclusive clade (see Conrad, 2008; Simões et al., 2018). We have defined the name using a maximum crown clade definition in the interest of presenting a simple definition (one with few specifiers) that will nevertheless apply to the same clade in the context of major differences between

the internal relationships in phylogenies based on morphological (e.g., Estes et al., 1988; Lee, 1998; Conrad, 2008; Gauthier et al., 2012; but see Simões et al., 2018) versus molecular (e.g., Townsend et al., 2004; Vidal and Hedges, 2005; Wiens et al., 2010; Pyron et al., 2013; see also Reeder et al., 2015) data (see *Composition*).

Despite these striking disagreements, data from both DNA sequences and phenotypic sources strongly support many of the same crown squamatan subclades: traditional *Anguimorpha* plus *Serpentes*, *Dibamidae*, *Gekkota*, *Iguania*, *Lacertoidea* (including *Amphisbaenia*), and *Scincoidea*. Estimating the timing of their divergence is complicated because their interrelationships are in dispute and their early fossil records are sparse. A single partial, but articulated, specimen from the mid-Triassic (~240 Ma), *Megachirella wachtleri* (Renesto and Posenato, 2003), has recently been inferred to be a stem squamatan (Simões et al., 2018). It is the only potential pan-squamatan known from the Triassic or Early Jurassic. Otherwise, the oldest pan-squamatan fossils that might be referable to the total clades of any of the crown squamatan subclades are mainly partial jawbones known from ~167 Ma (Bathonian, Middle Jurassic; e.g., Caldwell et al., 2015). Relatively intact, or at least associated, remains of stem-members of three of them (*Gekkota*, *Scincoidea*, *Anguimorpha*) are known from ~150 Ma (Kimmeridgian, Late Jurassic; e.g., Evans, 2003). Apart from *Dibamidae*, which has no fossil record, most of the rest are diverse and disparate by ~75 Ma (Campanian, Late Cretaceous; e.g., Gao and Norell, 2000). Crown squamatans appear to have been the dominant lepidosaurs in terrestrial ecosystems since the Early Cretaceous (e.g., Evans and Matsumoto, 2015; and references therein), while rhynchocephalians predominated during the early Mesozoic (e.g., Cocude-Michel, 1963; Hsiou et al., 2015; and references therein; see also *Lepidosauria*, this volume).

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