**The Kenya Reptile Atlas**

A free, downloadable atlas of Kenya’s reptiles. This is a free source of regularly updated information on Kenya’s Reptiles. Authors: **Stephen Spawls, Beryl Bwong, Patrick Malonza, Vincent Muchai, Victor Wasonga**

Obtainable under ‘downloads’ at Kenyareptileatlas.com

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**A New Checklist of the Reptiles of Kenya: Part 1;**

**Turtles, tortoises, lizards, worm lizards and crocodiles.**

Since the publication of ‘A Field Guide to the Reptiles of East Africa’, by Spawls, Howell, Drewes and Ashe, in 2002, (known for short as FGREA) a number of names have changed, and a number of species have been recorded in Kenya for the first time. So here is a current list of the chelonians, lizards, amphisbaenians and crocodiles known to occur in Kenya at present; and we will update this from time to time. Snakes will be in part 2. We’re using the nomenclature of the Reptile Database ([www.reptile-database.org](http://www.reptile-database.org)) , which is also regularly updated and an excellent source of information.

The names are given thus: new scientific name, **old scientific name in brackets** (if different, if not then no second name), common name, **old common name in brackets** (if different). Species new to Kenya since the publication of the FGREA (both newly described, or recorded for the first time, or elevated from the synonymy of another species) are indicated by an asterisk **\***. We have tried to stick to the original order of the FGREA, but some changes in taxonomic groups means this is not always possible (for example, in the rearrangement of the skink families). Where a photograph is shown, it is of the species directly above the picture. Users should be aware that major taxonomic changes will take place over the next few years, particularly with complex groups like the small geckoes (Lygodactylus, Cnemaspis) and burrowing skinks.

Our grateful thanks are extended to those who had a critical look at this list and made helpful comments and suggestions, and those who allowed us use of their photographs; including the Bio-Ken team (Sanda Ashe, Royjan Taylor, Anton Childs), Mike Roberts and Tomas Mazuch.

**Turtles and Tortoises; order Testudines.**

Superfamily Testudinoidea, Family [Testudinidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Testudinidae&submit=Search). Terrestrial tortoises.

*Stigmochelys pardalis* (*Geochelone pardalis*) Leopard tortoise

*Kinixys belliana* Bell’s hinged tortoise

*Kinixys spekii* Speke’s hinged tortoise 

*Malacochersus tornieri* Pancake tortoise

Superfamily Trionychoidea, Family [Trionychidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Trionychidae&submit=Search) Soft-shelled Turtles

*Trionyx triunguis* Nile soft-shelled turtle



Superfamily Chelonioidea, Family [Cheloniidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Cheloniidae&submit=Search) Sea Turtles

*Lepidochelys olivacea* Olive ridley turtle

*Caretta caretta* Loggerhead turtle

*Eretmochelys imbricata* Hawksbill turtle



*Chelonia mydas* Green turtle

Superfamily Chelonioidea, Family [Dermochelyidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Dermochelyidae&submit=Search) Leatherback Turtles

*Dermochelys coriacea* Leatherback turtle

#### Superfamily. Pelomedusoidea Family [Pelomedusidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Pelomedusidae&submit=Search) Afro-American Side-necked Turtles

#### *Pelomedusa neumanni* (*Pelomedusa subrufa*) Neumann’s helmeted terrapin (Helmeted terrapin)

#### *Pelusios broadleyi* Lake Turkana hinged terrapin

#### *Pelusios castanoides* Yellow-bellied hinged terrapin

#### *Pelusios sinuatus* Serrated hinged terrapin

#### *Pelusios williamsi* Williams’ hinged terrapinC:\Users\spawls\Pictures\facebook reptile quiz\chelonian.JPG

#### Order Squamata; Lizards Sub-order Sauria (also Lacertilia)

#### Infraorder Gekkota Family [Eublepharidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Eublepharidae&submit=Search) Eyelid geckos

#### *Holodactylus africanus* Somali-Maasai clawed gecko

#### Infraorder Gekkota Family [Gekkonidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Gekkonidae&submit=Search" \t "_blank) Regular geckos

#### *Stenodactylus sthenodactylus* Elegant gecko

#### *Cnemaspis africana* Usambara forest gecko

#### *Cnemaspis dickersonae* (*Cnemaspis dickersoni*) Dickerson’s forest gecko

#### *Cnemaspis elgonensis* Elgon forest gecko

#### *Hemidactylus angulatus* (*Hemidactylus brooki*) Afro-tropical ground gecko (Brook’s gecko)

#### *Hemidactylus barbouri* Barbour’s geckoC:\Users\spawls\Pictures\atlas checklist\DSC_0864_01.JPG

#### *\* Hemidactylus barbierii* Lake Turkana gecko

#### *Hemidactylus bavazzanoi* Somali banded gecko

#### *Hemidactylus frenatus* Pacific gecko

#### *Hemidactylus funaiolii* Archer’s Post gecko

#### *Hemidactylus isolepis* Uniform-scaled gecko

#### *Hemidactylus mabouia* Tropical house gecko

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#### *Hemidactylus macropholis* Boulenger’s gecko

#### *Hemidactylus modestus* Tana River gecko

#### \* Hemidactylus *mrimaensis* Kaya Mrima gecko

#### *Hemidactylus platycephalus* Tree gecko

#### *Hemidactylus robustus* Somali Plain gecko

#### *Hemidactylus ruspolii* Prince Ruspoli’s gecko

#### *Hemidactylus squamulatus* Nyika geckoC:\Users\spawls\Pictures\atlas checklist\H squamulatus Maasai Mara_01.JPG

#### *Hemidactylus tropidolepis* Ogaden gecko

#### *Lygodactylus angolensis* Angolan dwarf gecko

#### *Lygodactylus angularis* Angulate dwarf gecko

#### *Lygodactylus capensis* Cape dwarf gecko

#### *Lygodactylus grandisonae* (*Lygodactylus grandisoni)* Bunty’s dwarf gecko

#### \* *Lygodactylus gutturalis* Chevron-throated dwarf gecko/Forest dwarf gecko

#### *Lygodactylus keniensis* Kenya dwarf gecko

#### *Lygodactylus laterimaculatus* Side-spotted dwarf gecko

#### *Lygodactylus luteopicturatus* Yellow-headed dwarf geckoC:\Users\spawls\Pictures\atlas checklist\L_01. luteo Dar Es Salaam.JPG

#### *Lygodactylus manni* Mann’s dwarf gecko

#### \* *Lygodactylus mombasicus* Mombasa dwarf gecko (there is debate about the identity of this species, as well as *L. picturatus* and *L. luteopicturatus*; see papers by Beate Roll and co-workers. *Lygodactylus mombasicus* appears to be paraphyletic.)

#### *Lygodactylus picturatus* White-headed dwarf gecko

#### *Lygodactylus scheffleri* Scheffler’s dwarf gecko

#### *Lygodactylus scorteccii* Scortecci’s dwarf gecko

#### *Lygodactylus somalicus* Somali dwarf gecko

#### *Chondrodactylus turneri* (*Pachydactylus turneri*) Turner’s thick-toed gecko C:\Users\spawls\Pictures\facebook reptile quiz\img610_01.JPG

#### *Phelsuma dubia* Dull-green day geckoC:\Users\spawls\Pictures\atlas checklist\img606_01.JPG

#### *Homopholis fasciata* Banded velvet gecko

#### Infraorder Gekkota Family [Sphaerodactylidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Sphaerodactylidae&submit=Search) Ball geckos

#### *Pristurus crucifer* Cross-marked sand gecko

#### Infraorder Scincomorpha Family [Scincidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Scincidae&submit=Search) Subfamily [Acontinae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Acontinae&submit=Search) Limbless skinks

#### *Acontias percivali* Percival’s legless skink

#### Infraorder Scincomorpha Family [Scincidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Scincidae&submit=Search) Subfamily Mabuyinae skinks

#### *Eumecia anchietae* Western serpentiform skink

#### *Trachylepis bayoni* (*Mabuya bayoni*) Bayon’s skink

#### *Trachylepis brevicollis* (*Mabuya brevicollis*) Short-necked skinkC:\Users\spawls\Pictures\atlas checklist\img377_01.JPG

#### \* *Trachylepis dichroma* Two-coloured skink

#### *Trachylepis irregularis* (*Mabuya irregularis*) Alpine-meadow skink

#### *Trachylepis maculilabris* (*Mabuya maculilabris*) Speckle-lipped skink

#### *Trachylepis margaritifer* (*Mabuya margaritifer*) Rainbow skink

#### *Trachylepis megalura* (*Mabuya megalura*) Grass top skink/long-tailed skink

#### *Trachylepis planifrons* (*Mabuya planifrons*) Tree skink

#### *Trachylepis quinquetaeniata* (*Mabuya quinquetaeniata*) Five-lined skink

#### *Trachylepis striata* (*Mabuya striata*) Striped skink

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#### *Trachylepis varia* (*Mabuya varia*) Variable skink

#### Infraorder Scincomorpha Family [Scincidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Scincidae&submit=Search) Subfamily [Lygosominae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Lygosominae&submit=Search) Lygosomid/burrowing skinks

#### *Lygosoma pembanum* Pemba Island writhing skink

#### *Mochlus afer* (*Lygosoma afrum*) Peters’ writhing skink

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#### *Mochlus mabuiiforme* (*Lygosoma mabuiiformis*) Mabuya-like writhing skink

#### *Mochlus somalicum* (*Lygosoma somalicum*) Somali writhing skink

#### *Mochlus sundevalli* (*Lygosoma sundevalli*) Sundevall’s writhing skink

#### *Mochlus tanae* (*Lygosoma tanae*) Tana River writhing skink

#### *Lepidothyris hinkeli* (*Lygosoma fernandi*) Hinkel’s red-flanked skink (Red-flanked skink)

#### Infraorder Scincomorpha Family [Scincidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Scincidae&submit=Search) Subfamily [Eugongylinae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Eugongylinae&submit=Search) Eugongylid skinks

#### *Leptosiaphos kilimensis* Kilimanjaro five-toed skink

#### *Afroablepharus wahlbergii* (*Panaspis wahlbergii*) Wahlberg’s snake-eyed skink

#### *Cryptoblepharus africanus* (*Cryptoblepharus boutonii*) Coral rag skink

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#### Infraorder Scincomorpha Family [Scincidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Scincidae&submit=Search) Subfamily [Scincinae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Scincinae&submit=Search) Typical skinks

#### *Chalcides bottegi* (*Chalcides ocellatus*) Ocellated skink

#### \* *Feylinia currori* Western forest limbless skink

#### \* *Melanoseps loveridgei* Loveridge’s limbless skink

#### *\* Melanoseps pygmaeus* Pygmy limbless skink

#### Infraorder Scincomorpha Family [Lacertidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Lacertidae&submit=Search) Lacertids, Wall Lizards

#### *Gastropholis prasina* Green keel-bellied lizard

#### *Gastropholis vittata* Striped keel-bellied lizard

#### \* *Holaspis laevis* Blue-tailed gliding lizard

#### *Philochortus rudolfensis* Turkana shield-backed ground lizard C:\Users\spawls\Pictures\atlas checklist\Philochortus Mike Roberts_01.JPG

#### (© Mike Roberts)

#### \* *Adolfus africanus* Multi-scaled forest lizard

#### *Adolfus alleni* Mt Kenya Alpine-meadow lizard (Alpine meadow-lizard)

#### \* *Adolfus masavaensis* (elevated from within *A. alleni*) Mt Elgon Alpine-meadow lizard (also on Aberdares)

#### *Adolfus jacksoni* Jackson’s forest lizardC:\Users\spawls\Pictures\atlas checklist\img350_01.JPG

#### *Nucras boulengeri* Boulenger’s scrub lizard

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#### *Heliobolus neumanni* Neumann’s sand lizard

#### *Heliobolus spekii* Speke’s sand lizard

#### *Pseuderemias striatus (Pseuderemias striata)* Peters’ sand lizard

#### *Pseuderemias smithii* Smith’s sand lizard

#### *Latastia longicaudata* Southern long-tailed lizard

#### Infraorder Scincomorpha Family [Cordylidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Cordylidae&submit=Search) Girdled and grass lizards

#### *Cordylus tropidosternum* Tropical girdled lizard

#### *Cordylus beraduccii* Maasai girdled lizardC:\Users\spawls\Pictures\atlas checklist\Cordylus beraducci_01.JPG

#### *Chamaesaura tenuior* (*Chamaesaura anguina)* Highland grass lizard

#### Infraorder Scincomorpha Family [Gerrhosauridae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Gerrhosauridae&submit=Search) Plated Lizards

#### *Gerrhosaurus flavigularis* Yellow-throated plated lizard

#### *Gerrhosaurus nigrolineatus* Black-lined plated lizard

#### *Broadleysaurus major* (*Gerrhosaurus major*) Great plated lizard

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#### Infraorder Iguania Family [Agamidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Agamidae&submit=Search) Agamas

#### *Acanthocercus annectans* Eritrean rock agama

#### *Acanthocercus atricollis* Blue-headed tree agama

#### *Agama lionotus* (*Agama agama*) Red-headed rock agama

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#### *Agama armata* Tropical spiny agama

#### *Agama caudospinosa* (*Agama caudospina*) Elmenteita rock agama

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#### \* *Agama finchi* Malaba rock agama/Brian Finch’s rock agama

#### \* *Agama kaimosae* Kaimosi agama

#### *Agama mwanzae* Mwanza flat-headed agama

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#### *Agama persimilis* Somali painted agama

#### *Agama rueppelli* Rüppell’s agama

#### Infraorder Iguania Family [Chamaeleonidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Chamaeleonidae&submit=Search) Chameleons

**\*** *Kinyongia asheorum* Mt Nyiro bearded chameleon

**\*** *Kinyongia boehmei* (elevated from within *Chamaeleo tavetanus*) Taita Hills blade-horned chameleon



*Kinyongia excubitor* (*Chamaeleo excubitor*) Mt Kenya hornless chameleon

*Kinyongia tavetana* (*Chamaeleo tavetanus)* Mt Kilimanjaro two-horned chameleon

*Kinyongia tenuis* (*Chamaeleo tenue*) Usambara soft-horned chameleon.

*Chamaeleo dilepis* Flap-necked chameleon

*Chamaeleo gracilis* Slender chameleon, graceful chameleon

*Chamaeleo laevigatus* Smooth chameleon

*Trioceros bitaeniatus* (*Chamaeleo bitaeniatus*) Side-striped chameleon



**\*** *Trioceros conirostratus* Sudanese unicorn chameleon

*Trioceros ellioti* (*Chamaeleo ellioti)* Montane side-striped chameleon

*Trioceros hoehnelii* (*Chamaeleo hoehnelii)* Von Höhnel’s chameleon

*Trioceros jacksonii* (*Chamaeleo jacksonii*) Jackson’s chameleon

**\*** *Trioceros kinangopensis* Mt Kinangop alpine chameleon, Aberdare chameleon

*Trioceros marsabitensis* (*Chamaeleo marsabitensis)* Mount Marsabit chameleon

**\*** *Trioceros narraioca* Mt Kulal stump-nosed chameleon

**\*** *Trioceros ntunte* Mt Nyiro montane chameleon

**\*** *Trioceros nyirit* Pokot chameleon

*Trioceros schubotzi* (*Chamaeleo schubotzi)* Mt Kenya side-striped chameleon

*Trioceros sternfeldi* (*Chamaeleo rudis)* Tanzanian montane dwarf chameleon (Ruwenzori side-striped chameleon)

*Trioceros tremperi* (*Chamaeleo tremperi)* Eldama Ravine chameleon

*Furcifer oustaleti* (*Chamaeleo oustaleti)* Malagasy giant chameleon (introduced, probably extinct in Kenya)

*Rhampholeon boulengeri* Boulenger’s pygmy-chameleon

*Rieppeleon brevicaudatus* (*Rhampholeon brevicaudatus)* Bearded pygmy-chameleon

*Rieppeleon kersteni* (*Rhampholeon kersteni)* Kenya pygmy-chameleon 

Infraorder Platynota (Varanoidea) Family [Varanidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Varanidae&submit=Search) Monitor Lizards

*Varanus albigularis* White-throated savanna monitor 

*Varanus niloticus* Nile monitor



**Amphisbaenians or Worm Lizards Sub-order Amphisbaenia**

Sub-order Amphisbaenia Family [Amphisbaenidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Amphisbaenidae&submit=Search) Wedge-snouted worm lizards

*Geocalamus acutus* Voi wedge-snouted worm lizard



**Crocodiles; Order Crocodylia**

### Suborder Eusuchia Family [Crocodylidae](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/search.php?taxon=Crocodylidae&submit=Search) Crocodylians

*Crocodylus niloticus* Nile crocodile

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