

**A RECORD OF THE FIVE-LINED EARLESS DRAGON *TYMPANOCRYPTIS*
LINEATA IN FAR WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Scott C. Eipper

65 Grange Rd, Caulfield East, Victoria 3145.

A small dragon was observed perched on a mound of soil at the edge of a live saltbush, alongside the Silver City Highway 84 km N (by road) of Wentworth, NSW (33°27.81'S 141°42.62'E) at 1415 hrs on 9 April 2004. The surrounding habitat was extensively grazed saltbush plain; the ambient air temperature was 34° C. The dragon hunched down, then fled into a short burrow (approximately 150 mm deep). It was caught and identified as *Tympanocryptis lineata*, having a pale bar between the eyes of the dorsal aspect of the head, and having a pair of preanal pores, but lacking femoral pores.

The dragon (Figure 1) was photographed, then released at the site of capture, as I did not have a permit to collect specimens.

Until now, *T. lineata* has not been confirmed as occurring in New South Wales (Shea, 2002; Swan *et al.*, 2004), although it is known from adjacent parts of South Australia (Wilson & Swan, 2004).

REFERENCES

Shea, G.M. (2002). Does *Tympanocryptis lineata* occur in New South Wales?
Herpetofauna 32(2): 83- 84.

Wilson, S. & Swan, G. (2003) A Complete guide to Reptiles of Australia. New Holland, Sydney.

Caption for Figure

Figure 1. *Tympanocryptis lineata* from 84 km N of Wentworth via Silver City Highway, NSW. (Photo: S. Eipper).

