

TARENTOLA MAURITANICA (Moorish Gecko). USA: TEXAS: ATASCOSA Co.: 20 Chelsea Dr, Poteet, TX 78065 (29.10720°N, 98.65747°W; WGS 84), 181 m elev. 20 September 2025. Caden J. Myers, Benjamin W. Genter, Kevin E. Green, Jake E. Kuschel, Spencer J. Duffendack, and Drew R. Davis. Verified by Travis J. LaDuc. Biodiversity Collections, The University of Texas at Austin (TNHC 117552 [DRD 13167]). A single adult male (72 mm SVL, 84 mm tail length, 13.0 g) was collected from an exterior wooden structure at 2119 h. The landowners have observed and collected multiple individuals since August 2025, suggesting an established population at this site. 90 June Gold Ln, Poteet, TX 78065 (29.11601°N, 98.68283°W; WGS 84), 194 m elev. 21 September 2025. Caden J. Myers, Benjamin W. Genter, Kevin E. Green, Jake E. Kuschel, Spencer J. Duffendack, and Drew R. Davis. Verified by Travis J. LaDuc. TNHC 117553 (DRD 13204). An adult female (56 mm SVL, 62 mm tail length, 4.7 g) was collected from the exterior of a house at 2116 h. An additional eight geckos (TNHC 117554–117561 [DRD 13205–13212]: 45–72 mm SVL, 51–80 mm tail length, 2.4–11.5 g) were collected from the same structure from 2116–2130 h. The landowners have observed multiple individuals since August 2024, suggesting an established population has existed at this site for over a year. These specimens represent a new county record for *T. mauritanica* in Texas, though previous, unvouchered observations have been reported from Atascosa County from as early as 2020 (Davis et al. 2024. Rept. Amphib. 31:e21502). These vouchers extend this introduced species' range ca. 29.4 km and 31.1 km southwest, respectively, from the nearest specimen record in adjacent Bexar County (TNHC 117134).

GUADALUPE Co.: 120 Dobie Blvd, Cibolo, TX 78108 (29.56572°N, 98.24374°W; WGS 84), 220 m elev. 18 September 2025. Caden J. Myers, Benjamin W. Genter, Kevin E. Green, Jake E. Kuschel, Spencer J. Duffendack, and Drew R. Davis. Verified by Travis J. LaDuc. TNHC 117547 (DRD 13122). A juvenile gecko (29 mm SVL, 29 mm tail length, 0.4 g) was collected from the ceiling of an open-air garage at 2200 h. An additional four geckos, including adult and juvenile specimens (TNHC 117548–117551 [DRD 13123–13126]: 35–70 mm SVL, 21–64 mm tail length, 1.3–11.4 g), were collected from the same residence from 2204–2213 h. The landowners have observed multiple individuals since September 2024, suggesting an established population at this site. These specimens represent a new county record for *T. mauritanica* in Texas, though previous, unvouchered observations have been reported from Guadalupe County since 2021 (Davis et al. 2024, *op. cit.*). These vouchers extend the species' range ca. 19.8 km east from the nearest specimen record in adjacent Bexar County (TNHC 117109).

Tarentola mauritanica has now been recorded from three counties in Texas, and future range expansion via human-mediated

jump dispersal is likely (Davis et al. 2024, *op. cit.*). Anecdotally, at sites where *T. mauritanica* was present, few or no *Hemidactylus turcicus* were observed, despite this species being common across much of south-central Texas (Dixon 2013. *Amphibians and Reptiles of Texas: with Keys, Taxonomic Synopses, Bibliography, and Distribution Maps*. Third Edition Revised and Updated. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas. viii + 447 pp.). This suggests *T. mauritanica* may be outcompeting *H. turcicus* for resources or preying upon them directly. Research on the diet of *T. mauritanica* in Texas could provide insight into potential direct and/or indirect competitive interactions with native and non-native species. Additionally, internal and external parasites were observed when preserving many of these *T. mauritanica*, and future research on the species' parasite loads could help better understand the risk this species poses to native communities.

We thank T. LaDuc for verifying and cataloging these voucher specimens. Funding for field work was provided, in part, by a SnakeDays Student Research Grant awarded to CJM and an ENMU Faculty Research and Instructional Development Grant awarded to DRD. All specimens were collected under a TPWD Scientific Permit for Research (SPR-1018-294) issued to DRD and followed an approved IACUC protocol (ENMU 2023-DAV-005).

CADEN J. MYERS (e-mail: cadenmyers@ufl.edu) and **BENJAMIN W. GENTER**, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, USA; **KEVIN E. GREEN**, **JACOB E. KUSCHEL**, and **SPENCER J. DUFFENDACK**, Department of Biology, Eastern New Mexico University, 1500 S Avenue K, ENMU Station 33, Portales, New Mexico 88130, USA; **DREW R. DAVIS**, Department of Biology, Eastern New Mexico University, 1500 S Avenue K, ENMU Station 33, Portales, New Mexico 88130, USA and Biodiversity Collections, Department of Integrative Biology, The University of Texas at Austin, 3130 Read Granberry Trail, PRC 33-R4000, Austin, Texas 78758, USA (e-mail: drew.davis@enmu.edu).