

Page 77802 When talking about the range of the lizard you exclude Crane County. Which is listed by Dixon 2000 and Axtell 1988

Page 77803 Sand grain section—Sand grain work was poorly done (not random site, only a few sites were done, not from random blowouts, sites were not chosen throughout the range), more work needs to be done with this. To my knowledge no tests were done to see if breathing was inhibited by small sand grains and this any restriction because of this is highly speculative.

Page 77804 When talking about the width of the lizards range shouldn't you use Km instead of Ha?

Page 77804 You say that lizards were absent, but with the design of the study you can never say they were absent, you can just say not detected.

Page 77804 In regards to the resampling of sites done in 2008. No sites were visited that were from habitat that was perceived to be good that did not contain lizards in 1994-6. We have no way of knowing if any of these sites where lizards were called absent have been recolonized/colonized, or if they just became more abundant so they can be detected. I don't know if there would be any of these sites but I would suspect that maybe a small percentage. As it stands with this study you can only find status quo or decline.

Page 77804 In the Texas section you say one SDL was found in Gaines. We found a large population. I don't remember the exact number but we counted more than 40 in the search and took 5 specimens in 2006.

Page 77804 You paint a really grim picture of arenicolus in Texas (which may be true). Saying that they likely occur only near that sites that they were found in the 06-07 study. I would argue that they occur patchily from Kermit to Monahans and then from Kermit along 115 NE for about 20 miles that extends into Andrews County. Sampling coverage within this "occupied" habitat was poor due to road access and private land access issues.

Page 77804 In the Texas section, the two surveys from within Monahans State Park were done at inappropriate times (1255-1355 and 1815-1915) to suggest that they are extirpated and the number of person hours is less than that that is listed in their own protocol. I would say that their amount of survey time is inadequate to say anything about arenicolus there.

Page 77805 You talk a lot about prey base. I think too much emphasis is put on this. Sceloporus are generalist predators (although some are habitat specialists) that do fine in pretty much any habitat that has bugs (speaking about the genus in general). To my knowledge the prey base is not a factor in the decline of any Sceloporus sp. and until a proper diet study is conducted then we must assume that arenicolus are like their close relatives in diet and will eat most any insect that is small enough that they come across. Although unknown, the diets of similar species in the sands (e.g. Uta and S. consobrinus) are likely very similar and they are not adversely affected by the same factors that arenicolus are.

Page 77805 Uma comparison—A sceloporus example would be more appropriate, perhaps something with *S. woodi* that specializes on a sand ecosystem in Florida and is in decline as well.

Page 77805 You say they don't occupy 86 percent of historically occupied habitat. I see about 12 unique sites in Texas and only 5 of those were surveyed by Laurencio et al., the lizard was found at one of those sites and has since been found at another.

Page 77805 Extirpation at Crane—There is no evidence that O&G is responsible for the extirpation at Crane. They also postulate that OHV traffic could be responsible

Page 77806 Fragmentation—Isn't Leavitt's report about the effects of fragmentation available. That would be compelling evidence.

Page 77807 Pipelines—Pipelines also create new habitat when they bisect shinnery flats adjacent to occupied habitat

Page 77810 Scientific collecting permits are not needed to capture and keep dead or alive up to 6 *arenicolus* as long as you have a TX hunting license. However they can not be used commercially.

Page 77813 Climate Change is potentially a huge impact. I see the loss of the Crane County population more likely due to Climate Change than any other factor. It isn't a coincidence that Crane County is the most Southerly, lowest elevation site that the lizard is known from.

Page 77813 Competition—The side-blotch doesn't really outcompete the SDL. In the modified habitats you talk about the SDL is likely already absent from other factors and the *Uta* are filling the empty niche space left by SDL

Page 77813 Climate Change—you should contact Barry Sinervo directly about some of his models about the effect of climate change on *Uta*. These predictions are pretty dire and *arenicolus* has a lower tolerance for heat.