

Key to the geckos of the eastern United States

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| 1. | a. Moveable eyelids | not a gecko |
| | b. Eyes covered by a fixed transparent covering | 2 |
| 2. | a. Pupil round, diurnal | 3 |
| | b. Pupil vertical, usually brown or gray, never green | 4 |
| 3. | a. Toes with pads, usually green, size large (to 12 in. TL) | Giant Day Gecko <i>Phelsuma madagascariensis grandis</i> |
| | b. Toes without pads, size small (to 3 1/2 in. TL) | Yellow-headed Gecko <i>Gonatodes albogularis</i> |
| 4. | a. Toes with small rounded pads at tip, size small (to 2 7/8 in. TL) | 5 (Dwarf Geckos) |
| | b. Toes with expanded pads, size large | 7 |
| 5. | a. Dorsal scales relatively small, smooth, granular | Cuban Ashy Gecko <i>Sphaerodactylus e. elegans</i> |
| | b. Dorsal scales relatively large, imbricate, and strongly-keeled | 6 |
| 6. | a. Light lines on head, numerous light spots on neck and shoulders | Common Ocellated Gecko <i>Sphaerodactylus a. argus</i> |
| | b. Dark lines on head, no light spots, or sometimes a pair (females) | Florida Reef Gecko <i>Sphaerodactylus n. notatus</i> |
| 7. | a. Bluish gray w/ numerous orange spots, size large (to 14 in. TL) | Tokay Gecko <i>Gekko gekko</i> |
| | b. Size smaller, brown or grey, never with orange spots | 8 |
| 8. | a. Tail flattened, body w/loose skin flaps | Flat-tailed House Gecko <i>Cosymbotus platyurus</i> |
| | b. Tail relatively round, no loose skin flaps | 9 |
| 9. | a. Toe tips w/split, fan-shaped pads | Fan-footed Rock Gecko <i>Ptyodactylus hasselquisti</i> |
| | b. No fan-shaped toe pads | 10 |
| 10. | a. Toe pads undivided, large tubercles in distinct lateral rows | 11 |
| | b. Toe pads divided | 13 (House Geckos) |
| 11. | a. Toe pads thick | Bibron's Thick-toed Gecko <i>Pachydactylus bibronii</i> |
| | b. Toe pads normal, ventral scales overlapping, back gray w/large tubercles in distinct lateral rows | 12 |
| 12. | a. Shoulders w/ white spots | White-spotted Wall Gecko <i>Tarentola annularis</i> |
| | b. Shoulders w/o white spots | Common Wall Gecko <i>Tarentola mauritanica</i> |
| 13. | a. Toe pads of the fourth toe do not extend to base of digit | Amerfrican House Gecko <i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i> |
| | b. Toe pads of the fourth toe extend to base of digit (Fig 2b) | 14 |
| 14. | a. Dorsal tubercles large and in distinct lateral rows | Mediterranean Gecko <i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i> |
| | b. Dorsal tubercles small or absent | 15 |

15. a. Rows of enlarged spines encircle the tail (to 5 1/2 in. TL) Common House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*
b. Spines present along the tail edge only (to 5 1/2 in. TL) Indo-Pacific Gecko *Hemidactylus garnotii*

Information for this key is largely from Bartlett & Bartlett 1999, Cox et al. 1998, Krysko & Daniels 2005, Pienaar 1978, Schleich et al. 1996.