

# Tucson Herpetological Society

Wednesday March 20 2019– 7:15 PM

Tucson City Council Ward 3, 1510 E Grant Road

## Chasing lizards in the Namib Desert: Insights into the ecology of sand lizards and day geckos

Dr. Ian White Murray



Ian has been a conservation biologist working for Pima County's ecological monitoring program for over three years. At Pima County his responsibilities cover a variety of species from pygmy owls to talus snails to leopard frogs. Ian loves living in, working in, and

learning about the Sonoran Desert and considers himself lucky to be able to be a part of ensuring sound stewardship of our landscapes and the species they contain.

He received his B.S. in biology from New Mexico State University and his Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico. At the University of New Mexico, his work focused on the physiological ecology of small mammals, desert box turtles, and desert tortoises. He spent three years doing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he studied several species of lizards in Namibia's Namib Desert.

Today he will highlight some of the work that he did covering the ecological energetics of several species of Namib Desert lizards, including sand lizards and Namib day geckos (i.e., *Rhoptropus*, *Meroles*, and *Pedioplanis*). This includes information on the activity patterns, foraging ecology, thermoregulation, and energy budgets of these lizard species.

**PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR**  
**Pre-meeting gathering**  
**5:30 PM at Rubio's**  
**2906 N Campbell**

