A record of the Long-tailed Lizard, *Takydromus sexlineatus* (Daudin, 1802) (Reptilia: Lacertidae) from the farming district of Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

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Abstract: The Long-tailed Lizard, *Takydromnus sexlineatis* (Daudin, 1802)(Reptilia: Lacertidae) is recorded from the Sisaket farming district (near Ubon Ratachathani) during July 2017. Brief notes on its habitat are provided.

Key words: *Takydromus sexlineatus*, Lacertidae, distribution record, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand.

Introduction

Takydromus sexlineatus (Daudin, 1802)(Reptilia: Lacertidae) is a well-known lizard with a widespread distribution in South-east Asia (e.g. Chan-Ard *et al.*, 2015) occurring in India, Myanmar, China, Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Cambodia and Thailand (e.g. Auliya, 2010; Chan-Ard *et al.*, 2015). Despite its widespread distribution very little has been recorded on its ecology and habitat. Chan-Ard *et al*. (2015) noted that it is a diurnal lizard, which is often found moving through loosely woven grass, such as bamboo and similar grasses at considerable speed. This species is a therefore a grassland specialist (Auliya, 2010). Its typical habitat is high grasslands, however, it is also reported to inhabit areas of sparse vegetation in clearings, at the edge of forests, and in open plantation (Auliya, 2010). Chan-Ard *et al*. (2015) noted that the species occurs throughout Thailand but only mentioned the following localities: Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai, Bangkok, Nakkon Si Thammarat and Pattani. We have yet to find it in Bangkok (see our recent findings in two Bangkok parks, Hawkeswood & Sommung, 2016, 2017).

Observations

During the morning of 18 July 2017, one of us (BS) noticed a specimen of the Long-tailed Lizard, *Takydromus sexlineatus* (Daudin, 1802) basking at the base of a small plant *Citrus australasica* F. Muell. (Rutaceae) growing in an orchard, near Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand. The lizard was basking on rice husks (Fig. 1) and remained in this position while several photographs were taken. After this photo-session, the lizard raced away into grass. The habitat here is long established farmland with various crops such as rice (*Oryza sativa* L., Poaceae), guava (*Psidiun guajava* L., Myrtaceae), coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L., Arecaceae), banana (*Musa paradiscica* L., Musaceae), rhambutan (*Nephelium lappaceum* L., Sapindaceae), durian (*Durio zibethinus* L., Malvaceae), cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz, Euphorbiaceae), finger lime (*Citrus australasica* F. Muell., Rutaceae), daisies (*Chrysanthemum* sp., Asteraceae) and there are also many weed species. The foliage of these crop plants, small trees and weeds is likely to be important cover for this lizard as it forages on insects in this farmland habitat and on the margins.

Discussion

Takydromus sexlineatus (Daudin, 1802) is listed as Least Concern (Red List Category) in view of its wide distribution and tolerance of a broad range of habitats, including modified environments (Auliya, 2010). No major threats have been reported and this species is not thought to be undergoing a significant population decline (Auliya, 2010).

Taklydromus sexlineatus has now been confirmed as occurring in farmlands in eastern Thailand near the Cambodian and Laos borders. The habitat here is long established farmland with various crops such as rice, (*Oryza sativa* L., Poaceae), guava (*Psidiun guajava* L., Myrtaceae), coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L., Arecaceae), banana (*Musa paradisiaca* L., Musaceae), rhambutan (*Nephelium*

lappaceum L., Sapindaceae), durian (*Durio zibethinus* L., Malvaceae), cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz, Euphorbiaceae), finger lime (*Citrus australasica* F. Muell., Rutaceae), daisies (*Chrysanthemum* sp., Asteraceae) and there are also many weeds. The foliage of these crop plants, small trees and weeds is likely to be important cover for this lizard as it forages on insects in this farmland habitat. The lizard lives amongst grass in furrows between garden beds.

There are few native trees left within the farm plots. The lizard takes shelter within or at the edges of the farmlands in clumps of native trees which include *Peltophorum* sp. and *Shorea* spp. (Dipterocarpaceae). The lizard shares this niche with the dragon lizard, *Calotes versicolor* (Daudin, 1802)(Agamidae)(Sommung & Hawkeswood, June 2017, pers. obs). which have also been observed on the ground moving through grass stems, weeds and the like. It is not known how the local populations of *T. sexlineatus* are faring in view of a highly changed environment, but the species appears less common than *Calotes versicolor*. Further observations will be undertaken on the reptile fauna of this isolated area of Thailand as opportunities appear.

Fig. 1. Specimen of *Takydromus sexlineatus* (Daudin, 1802)(Reptilia: Lacertidae) resting on rice husks (*Oryza sativa* L., Poaceae) at the base of a plant of *Citrus australasica* F.Muell. (Rutaceae) at a farm near Ubon Ratchathani, eastern Thailand (Province 36 in Chad-Ard *et al.*, 2015). (Photo: B. Sommung).

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