

REPTILIA

SAURIA

GEKKONIDAE

LYGODACTYLUS ANGULARIS (Guenther, 1893).

Angle-throated Dwarf Gecko

Tanzania, Morogoro Region, Ulanga District, Kilombero valley (08° 3'S: 36° 2'E), 16 April 1999. Frontier-Tanzania (a collection between the University of Dar es Salaam and the Society for Environmental Exploration in the UK); Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe, NMZB 16408. Taken in a pitfall trap set in leaf litter in Miombo woodland.

This male specimen (33 + 36 mm) agrees with material from Malawi (including topotypes) and Zambia, having a well defined chevron pattern on the throat. It represents an east-north-east range extension of 220 km from the Ukinga Mountains, where Loveridge (1933. Bull Mus. Comp. Zool. Harv. 74: 292) collected the species at Tandala and Madehani. Previous records are all from relatively high altitudes.

L. angularis grzimeki Bannikov & Darevsky, 1969 (known only from Lake Manyara National Park, about 550 km north of the Kilombero Valley) appears to be a good evolutionary species. The two other species lack the distinct chevron throat pattern.

Submitted by

D. G. Broadley (Biodiversity Foundation for Africa, P. O. Box FM730, Famona, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe).

SCINCIDAE

MELANOSEPS UZUNGWENSIS (Loveridge, 1942).

Udzungwa Limbless Lizard

Tanzania, Iringa Region and District, West Kilombero Scarp Forest Reserve, Ndundulu Mountains (07° 45' 39"S: 36° 26' 51"E) at 2000 m; 30 July 1999; Frontier-Tanzania; Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe NMZB 16350. Taken by hand in leaf litter on a steep (34°) west-facing slope in montane forest.

This male specimen measures 167 + 48 mm. It agrees with the types in having a small posteriorly displaced postnasal on each side, but differs in having the frontonasal longitudinally divided. It has 26 midbody scale rows, 156 ventrals and 42 subcaudals, compared with 26-28 and 165-168 for the first two counts in the two female syntypes (Brygoo and Roux-Esteve, 1981. Bull. Mus. Nat. Hist. Nat. Paris (4) 3 (A); 1181). This skink is uniform black, whereas the syntypes were pinkish-white below with brown lines on each scale row, but there is also much variation in ventral colouration in *M. ater*. This appears to be the first specimen to be collected since the types in 1929 and it represents a northeastern range extension of 120 km from the Kigogo type locality.

M. uzungwensis can be considered a good evolutionary species, distinguished by its large size (up to 202 mm snout-vent), retention of small postnasal scales and high mid-body (26-28) and ventral (156-168) scale counts. It is at least parapatric with the small *M. loveridgei* (NMZB 6946 from Lugoda, Mufindi District)

I am grateful to Jose Rosado (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard) for checking the head shields in the holotype MCZ 31076 and paratype MCZ 31077 (the "3's" were erroneously changed to "5's" in the original description).

Submitted by

D. G. Broadley (Biodiversity Foundation for Africa, P. O. Box FM730, Famona, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe).

LACERTIDAE

HOLASPIS LAEVIS (Werner, 1895).

Eastern Serrate-Toed Tree Lizard

Tanzania, Morogoro Region, Ulanga District, Kilombero valley (08° 35' S: 36° 29' E), 25 August 1999; Frontier-Tanzania; Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe NMZB 16321. Taken in a pitfall trap set in Miombo woodland.

This appears to be the first record from the Morogoro Region. Most previous Tanzanian records are from the Usambara Mountains and environs, but the species was recorded from Miombo woodland at Liwale (200 km to the southeast of the Kilombero locality) and Tunduru by Loveridge (1955. J. E. Afr. Nat. Hist. Soc. 22: 177).

This specimen (35 + 43 + mm) is unusual in having the black vertebral stripe so broad that it entirely covers the paired paravertebral rows of enlarged dorsal scales, so that the pale paravertebral stripes are displaced onto the adjacent rows of small scales. *H. laevis* seems to be a good evolutionary species, which can be distinguished on the basis of the following key:

Pale paravertebral stripes confined to the paired rows of enlarged paravertebral scales.....*H. guentheri*

Pale paravertebral stripes not confined to the paired rows of enlarged paravertebral scales, extending onto (or even restricted to) adjacent rows of small scales.....*H. laevis*.

H. laevis occurs in East Africa from north eastern Tanzania south to central Mozambique and west to Malawi, but there are apparent relict populations in the Upemba National Park and near Lubumbashi in the south eastern D.R.C. (Witte, 1953. Explor. Parc. Nat. Upemba 6: 90), so it may yet be found in northern Zambia.

Submitted by

D. G. Broadley (Biodiversity Foundation for Africa, P. O. Box FM730, Famona, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe).

CHAMAELEO DILEPIS (Leach, 1819).

Flapneck Chameleon

South Africa. Drakensburg Mountains, Kwazulu-Natal, Cathedral Peak road, 17 January 2000

Two males were collected while crossing the road at 13h00 (Cathedral Peak road approximately 13 km from Winterton). On each side of the road there was Eucalyptus forest (forest exploitation). The 2 specimens were not measured, but had the same size (around 120 mm SVL). The hemipenial pockets were very swollen indicating an obvious sexual maturity and sexual activity.

Local people know that animal (larger than *B. dracomontanum*). The owner of the Bergville hotel regularly sees large chameleons in his garden.

This new locality extends the distribution of the species inland, as it is primarily known from the coastal province area (Branch, 1988. A field guide to the snakes and other reptiles of Southern Africa, Struik Publishers, Cape Town.

Submitted by

Francis Girard (167 Bd. Vincent Auriol, 75013, Paris, France).

SERPENTES TYPTHLOPIDAE

TYPHLOPS CONGESTUS (Dumeril & Bibron, 1844).

Blotched Forest Blind-snake

Tanzania, Lindi Region, Tendaguru, Likwaye (0939 CB); collected by Reck sometime before World War 1; Zoological Museum, Berlin ZMB 23577, 23589.

A juvenile male (ZMB 23577) measuring 135 mm, length/diameter ratio 27; body scales in 28-28-24 rows (counts taken as in Schmidt, 1923 (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. 49: 46), vertebrals 310. An adult female (ZMB 23589) measuring 620 mm, length/diameter ratio 23; body scales in 32-28-24 rows, vertebrals 376. Both specimens have the nasal sulcus arising from the first labial and supraocular wedged between preocular and ocular; they are blotched dorsally and laterally, the black blotches extensively confluent.

This is the first record for this species from Tanzania and represents a relict population in coastal forest. The nearest locality records for the species are 1500 km away in the Kivu District of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Laurent, 1956. Ann. Mus. Roy. Congo Belge, Ser. 8vo, Sci. Zool. 48: 53, Figs. 1, 2, 11), and Bundingo Forest in western Uganda (BMNH 1935. 10. 9. 1).

Submitted by

D. G. Broadley (Biodiversity Foundation for Africa, P. O. Box FM730, Famona, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe).