

**The Sarawak Museum Journal****Vol. LXII No. 83****December 2006****ISSN: 0375-3050****E-ISSN: 3036-0188**

Citation: Indraneil Das. (2006). "Not Available": Lizard Species Erroneously or Doubtfully Reported from Borneo. The Sarawak Museum Journal, LXII (83): 151-174

"NOT AVAILABLE": LIZARD SPECIES ERRONEOUSLY OR DOUBTFULLY REPORTED FROM BORNEO**Indraneil Das****ABSTRACT**

Altogether, 109 nominal species of lizards are currently known from Borneo. An additional species have been recorded from the island in the literature. Several of these have now been shown to be the result of misidentification, inappropriate use of names and inaccurate locality data. Others may well be valid records, but await verification through new collections and/or investigations on museum specimens.

“NOT AVAILABLE”: LIZARD SPECIES ERRONEOUSLY OR DOUBTFULLY REPORTED FROM BORNEO

by

Indraneil Das

ABSTRACT

Altogether, 109 nominal species of lizards are currently known from Borneo. An additional 30 species have been recorded from the island in the literature. Several of these have now been shown to be the result of misidentification, inappropriate use of names and inaccurate locality data. Others may well be valid records, but await verification through new collections and/or investigations on museum specimens.

INTRODUCTION

At present, 109 species of lizards (Sauria: Squamata) are known from Borneo (Das, 2004). An additional 30 species have been recorded from Borneo in the literature. These include members of the families Agamidae (seven species), Dibamidae (two species), Gekkonidae (12 species), Scincidae (eight species) and Varanidae (one species).

Some of these records require verification through fresh collection and investigations on existing museum specimens. For instance, the gekkonid, *Hemidactylus brookii* Gray, 1845, was described on the basis of material from this island, but was not to be recollected for the next 160 years, and only recently was a breeding population discovered (see Das and Sukumaran, 2006). Other doubtful records of lizard species on Borneo have been shown to be

in error, stemming from the use of incorrect names, misidentifications and inaccurate locality data. Table 1 presents a list of erroneously or dubiously recorded species of lizards for Borneo, and their confirmed distribution. In the subsequent section, I provide discussions of the occurrence of these species on this island.

Institutional abbreviations, cited in the manuscript, follow Leviton *et al.* (1985; 1988), except for UMS.

The Natural History Museum, London, U.K. (BMNH),

Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, U.S.A. (FMNH),

Sarawak Museum, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia (SM),

"Borneensis" Collection, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia (UMS),

Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, U.S.A. (UMMZ*), and

Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Zoological Reference Collection, National University of Singapore, Singapore (ZRC; USDZ in Leviton *et al.*, 1985).

ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST

Agamidae

Draco spilopterus (Wiegmann, 1834):

Reported by Bartlett (1895), as *Draco rostratus* Günther, 1864 (subjective synonym of *Draco spilopterus* [Wiegmann, 1834]), based on collections by Captain (later Admiral) Edward Belcher (1799-1877), presumably BMNH 1946.8.27.25 (ex-BMNH 47.3.4.23) from "Borneo" that was referred to by Boulenger (1885: 261). Shelford (1901) doubted the provenance of the specimen, which is restricted to the Philippines (see Table 1), where H.M.S. Samarang stopped under the command of Belcher (see Belcher, 1848).

Draco taeniopterus Günther, 1861:

Recorded from Gunung Matang by Bartlett (1895) and Lambir Hills National Park by Kiew (1984). The source of the first record are specimens extant – SM c.c. 2.1.7.a-b, which are here re-identified as *Draco obscurus* Boulenger, 1887.

***Draco volans* Linnaeus, 1758:**

Reported from Borneo by numerous authors (e.g., Low, 1848; Bartlett, 1895; Boulenger, 1912: 57; Wermuth, 1967: 54; Musters, 1983; Inger, 1983; Tan, 1993: 3). Musters (1983) treated *D. sumatranus* (Schlegel, 1844) as a subspecies of *D. volans* Linnaeus, 1758, and reported it from Borneo. McGuire and Kiew (2001) elevated it to the status of species, while restricting the distribution of *D. volans* Linnaeus, 1758, to its type locality of Java.

***Gonocephalus bellii* (Duméril & Bibron, 1837):**

Reported from Borneo by Manthey (1983) and is based on specimens of *Gonocephalus bornensis* (Schlegel, 1848), which was synonymised under *Gonocephalus bellii* (Duméril and Bibron, 1837) by Smith (1935a: 134; 1935b) and Wermuth (1967: 57), but revived as a distinct species by Manthey and Denzer (1992b), this latter action followed by Welch (1994: 49) and Diong *et al.* (2000).

***Gonocephalus chamaeleontinus* (Laurenti, 1768):**

As *Lophyrus tigrina pectinata* Seba, 1734, a pre-Linnaean name (and thus nomenclaturally unavailable), this species was reported from Barabei in Kalimantan by Edeling (1864). More recently, this species has been recorded from Nunukan in Kalimantan by Iskandar (2004), but no voucher specimens exist.

***Gonocephalus megalepis* (Bleeker, 1860):**

Recorded from Santubong, Sarawak, by Shelford (1901: as *Gonocephalus tuberculatus* Boulenger, 1885) which was followed by de Rooij (1915: 108), who did not examine specimens from Borneo. Iskandar *et al.* (1999) suggested the occurrence of this species at Bentuang Karimun, Kalimantan Barat, but no voucher specimens were taken.

***Phoxophrys tuberculatus* Hubrecht, 1881:**

The record from Santubong Peninsula, Sarawak by Denzer (1996), is a lapsus for *Phoxophrys nigrilabris* (Peters, 1864) (Ulrich Manthey, *pers. comm.*, 2000).

Dibamidae

Dibamus alfredi Taylor, 1962:

Recorded from Danum Valley, Lahad Datu District, Sabah by Tan (1993: 2), based on FMNH 230187 and FMNH 246232, which formed the type series of a new species, *Dibamus vorisi* described by Das and Lim (2003).

Dibamus novaeguineae Duméril & Bibron, 1839:

Reported from Borneo by Boettger (1901). Earlier reports of this nominal species from Borneo (e.g., de Rooij, 1915: 284; Lloyd *et al.*, 1968) are at present referable to *D. leucurus* (Bleeker, 1860), which was synonymised under *Dibamus novaeguineae* Duméril & Bibron, 1839, by Boulenger (1887b).

Gekkonidae

Cnemaspis affinis (Stoliczka, 1870):

Reported from Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak, Borneo, by Shelford (1901), de Rooij (1915: 25) and Wermuth (1966: 12). Das and Bauer (1998) did not include it in the fauna of Borneo for lack of material from the region, the confirmation for the removal of the species in the fauna of Borneo being Shelford's own voucher specimen, SM c.c. 1.2.2.b, which was found to represent *Cnemaspis nigridia* (Smith, 1925).

Cnemaspis ornata (Boulenger, 1885):

Reported from Borneo without a specific locality by Bartlett (1895), and from Kuching, Sarawak, by Hanitsch (1900). None of these specimens are extant, either in the SM or ZRC/USDZ, repositories of material of Edward Bartlett and Richard Hanitsch, respectively.

Cnemaspis yercaudensis Das & Bauer, 2000:

Recorded from Borneo in a table within a non-technical work by Henkel and Schmidt (2003: 75), this report is here assumed to be a printing mistake.

Cyrtodactylus marmoratus (Gray, 1831):

Reported from a number of localities in Sarawak, including