

## RESEARCH NOTES (I)

### A REPORT ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *DRAVIDOGECKO ANAMALLENSIS* (GUNTHER) (GEKKONIDAE : SAURIA : SQAMATA : REPTILIA) IN ERAVIKULAM NATIONAL PARK, KERALA

#### Introduction

*Dravidogecko anamallensis* (Gunther) belonging to the reptilian family Gekkonidae is commonly known as the Southern Forest Gecko or the Anamalai Dravid Gecko. The species is considered rare (Tikader and Sharma, 1992) and only a few specimens are known (Smith, 1935). This Gecko is reported to occur in the Anamalai, Palni and Tirunelveli Hills of South-western India.

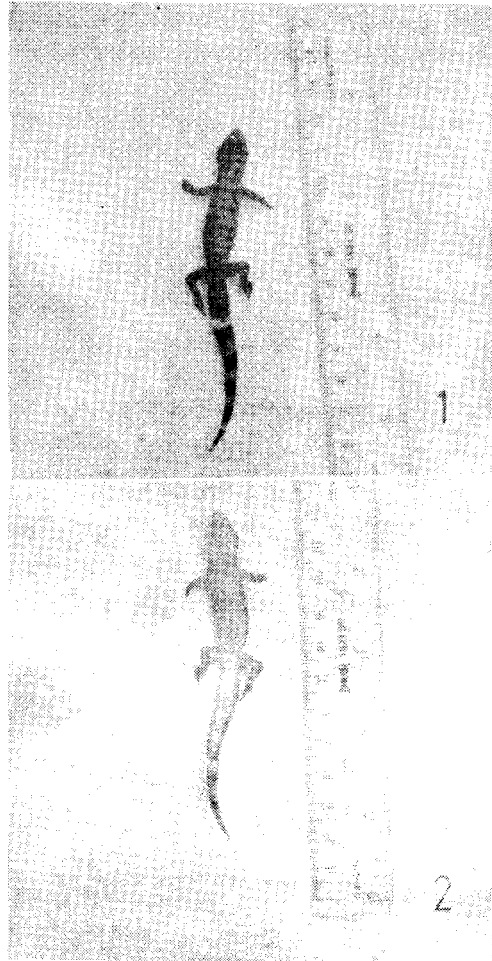
A faunistic survey conducted in the Eravikulam National Park, Idukki District, Kerala has resulted in the collection of the species which is reported here. Eravikulam National Park which is the home of the Nilgiri Tahr [*Hemitragus hylocrius* (Ogilby)] is the only protected high elevation Shola-grassland ecosystem in Kerala. Faunistically the area is poorly known.

#### Results and Discussion

The survey which resulted in the collection of the Dravid Gecko was conducted during April 1994. The specimens collected were located below loose boulders in Rajamalai area of the Park. The species is known to be rock dwelling, insectivorous and nocturnal in habits.

*Dravidogecko anamallensis* (Figs. 1-2)

Figs 1 - 2



Dorsal and ventral views of *Dravidogecko anamallensis* (Gunther).

is a small, monotypic Gecko with a greyish brown dorsum spotted or marbled with dark brown and with a pale brown belly. It can easily be distinguished by the presence of a well developed inner digit with free, clawed terminal phalange coupled with the possession of undivided transverse lamellae beneath the dilated digits. The maximum length of the animal recorded in literature is 95 mm (snout to vent : 45 mm ; tail : 50 mm).

Measurements of the specimens collected from Eravikulam National Park

are : (1) Total length : 100.5 mm (snout to vent : 32 mm; tail : 52.5 mm, (2) Total length : 69 mm (snout to vent : 32 mm; tail : 37 mm). The specimens studied tally well with the description of the species in taxonomic characters, general colouration and spotting pattern on the body. The tail is alternatively banded with light and dark brown.

The present finding forms the first report of the occurrence of the Southern Forest Gecko in Eravikulam National Park, Kerala.

### References

- Smith, M.A. (1935). *The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma (Reptilia and Amphibia)*; Vol. II- Sauria. Taylor and Francis, London.
- Tikader, B.K. and R.C. Sharma (1992). *Hand Book - Indian Lizards*. Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

C. Radhakrishnan

Zoological Survey of India,  
Western Ghats Fields Research Station,  
Calicut (Kerala)

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