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**Review of the genus *Cnemaspis* Strauch, 1887 (Sauria: Gekkonidae)
in Sri Lanka with the description of five new species**

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Abstract

Five new species of geckos are described from Sri Lanka by morphological comparison and morphometric analysis leading to review the genus *Cnemaspis* in the country. The type series of these species were identified from following localities: *C. alwisi* and *C. kumarasinghei* from the intermediate zone, *C. retigalensis* from the dry zone, *C. molligodai* from the lowland wet zone and *C. samanalensis* from the mountain region of the wet zone in the country. The high degree of endemism (90%) shown by *Cnemaspis* in Sri Lanka could be attributed to geographical isolation. In addition, the taxonomic issue of *C. jerdonii scalpensis* is discussed and the species *C. scalpensis* is erected.

Key words: *Cnemaspis*, gecko, new species, Sri Lanka

Introduction

The family Gekkonidae comprises of 26 species of day and nocturnal geckos in Sri Lanka. These species belong to nine genera namely *Calodactylodes* Strand, 1926, *Cnemaspis* Strauch, 1887, *Cosymbotus* Fitzinger,