



Discovered in historical collections: Two new *Japalura* species (Squamata: Sauria: Agamidae) from Yulong Snow Mountains, Lijiang Prefecture, Yunnan, PR China

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Abstract

Several specimens from historical collections made in Yunnan (PR China) were found to be inconsistent with hitherto known species of *Japalura*. Two species are described as new: *Japalura brevicauda* spec. nov. and *Japalura yulongensis* spec. nov. Diagnostic features for the new species are compiled and a key to closely related species is produced. The geographical distribution of these species is outlined and discussed.

Key words: Agamidae, *Japalura*, taxonomy, Yunnan, China, *Japalura brevicauda* spec. nov., *Japalura yulongensis* spec. nov., *Japalura flaviceps*, *Japalura batangensis*, *Japalura zhaoermii*

Introduction

Currently the genus *Japalura* (sensu lato) comprises 26 recognized species (Manthey 2010). *J. kaulbacki* Smith, 1937 was transferred into the genus *Pseudocalotes* (Mahony 2010) and revalidation of the genus *Oriotiaris* by Kästle & Schleich (1998) for *Japalura* species with a naked tympanum has been questioned by several authors (e.g. Mahony 2009 & 2010, Manthey 2010).

The genus *Japalura* is distributed over Asia from the Himalayan region, through China and Taiwan to islands in Southern Japan. In PR China (exclusive of Tibet) only ten species are found on the mainland while the genus is represented by five species on the much smaller island of Taiwan. In order to compile an inventory of PR China species it became necessary to review all mainland PR China in much more detail. The work described in the following can only constitute a small contribution towards this goal.

While studying the *Japalura* specimens collection of the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin (ZMB) we discovered a jar with eight specimens determined as *Japalura yunnanensis* (Anderson, 1878) labelled as collected by C. Schneider in Yunnan. Pope (1935) lists these specimens as *Japalura flaviceps* Barbour & Dunn, 1919 together with several other specimens in the ZMB collection originating from Batang (near the river Jinsha, headwaters of the river Yangtse), Luting (=Luding, ca. 1300 m asl. at the river Tung=Dadu), nowadays both Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan; Jerkalo or Yakalo (Tibetan) or Yanjing (Chinese) [at the headwaters of the river Lancang (Mekong)], Tibet as well as Man (tschóu) or Mowhsien (upper Min Valley), Sichuan.

Closer examination of the before mentioned material lead us to the conclusion that only the population near Luding can be referred to as *J. flaviceps*. The specimens from Batang are in good agreement with *J. batangensis* Li, Deng, Wu & Wang, 2001 while those from the upper Min Valley have to be classified as *J. zhaoermii* Gao & Hou, 2002. Schneider's collection contains two species that cannot be assigned to any of the known *Japalura* species and are therefore described here for the first time.