



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4000.1.4>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:F2DA9B1B-A7F8-492F-9DE9-71CB783E8421>

***Lepidodactylus lugubris* (Duméril & Bibron 1836) (Reptilia: Gekkonidae), an introduced lizard new for Brazil, with remarks on and correction of its distribution in the New World**

MARINUS S. HOOGMOED^{1,2} & TERESA C.S. AVILA-PIRES¹

¹Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi/CZO, Caixa Postal 399, CEP 66017–970 Belém, Pará, Brazil.

E-mail: marinus@museu-goeldi.br and avilapires@museu-goeldi.br

²Corresponding author

Abstract

Recently seven specimens of the gecko *Lepidodactylus lugubris* were collected or observed in Belém, Pará, northern Brazil. This is the first vouchered occurrence in Brazil of a widely dispersed (Pacific area) and invasive species (much of the Pacific, parts of northern South America and southern Central America and Florida, U.S.A.). In Suriname the species has already spread into the interior. The distribution of the species is corrected and the history of its introduction in the New World is reconstructed, with an estimation of the state of invasiveness for each country. Some possible routes of introduction are discussed.

Key words: invasive species, gecko, history, Amazonia, Brazil, Neotropics

Resumen

Recentemente sete exemplares do gecko *Lepidoblepharus lugubris* foram coletados ou observados em Belém, Pará, norte do Brasil. Essa é a primeira ocorrência (com material de referência) no Brasil dessa espécie com ampla distribuição no Pacífico e invasora em partes do Pacífico, do norte da América do Sul, sul da América Central e sul da Flórida, E.U.A. A espécie já dispersou para o interior do Suriname. A distribuição da espécie é corrigida e a história de sua introdução no Novo Mundo é reconstruída, com uma estimativa do estágio de invasão para cada país.

Palavras-chave: espécie invasora, gecko, história, Amazônia, Brasil, Neotrópico

Introduction

Lizards of the family Gekkonidae are famous for their abilities of long-distance dispersal as evidenced by several species of the genus *Hemidactylus* Duméril & Bibron 1836, *Gehyra oceanica* (Lesson 1830), *G. mutilata* (Wiegmann 1835), *Hemiphyllodactylus typus* Bleeker 1860, *Tarentola mauritanica* (Linnaeus 1758) and *Lepidodactylus lugubris* (Duméril & Bibron 1836). They have spread throughout different parts of the tropics and subtropics (Wermuth 1965; Bauer & Henle 1994; Kraus 2009; Krysko *et al.* 2011; Uetz & Hošek 2014), partly on their own by rafting, but more recently inadvertently helped by the increased intercontinental human transportation by sea and probably also by air. Their propensity of living in perianthropic environments, thus easily becoming stowaways, and their hard-shelled eggs that in some cases are resistant to spray of seawater and even immersion in seawater (Brown & Duffy 1992) are among the characteristics that help such spreading. Invasive *Hemidactylus* species have their origins in southern Europe, Northern Africa and the Near East (*H. turcicus* (Linnaeus 1758)), Africa (*H. mabouia* (Moreau de Jonnés 1818)), Africa and Southwest Asia (*H. brookii* Gray 1845), and Southeast Asia (*H. frenatus* (Duméril & Bibron 1836) and *H. garnotii* Duméril & Bibron 1836). All other species mentioned above are from Southeast Asia, with the exception of *T. mauritanica*, a circum-Mediterranean species with a