

A new species of *Cnemaspis* (Sauria: Gekkonidae) from Sri Lanka

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Abstract

A new species of *Cnemaspis*, *C. ranwellai* is described from Gannoruwa in the Central Province of Sri Lanka. This species differs from all other *Cnemaspis* species by having 12–15 femoral pores and having spine-like tubercles on the body and tail. Males have a distinct yellow colour in the throat area. It is similar to *Cnemaspis jerdoni scalapensis* Ferguson, 1877, but differs from the former by having spine-like tubercles in the tail, a fewer number of ventral scales at mid ventral region, presence of dorsal tubercles in the mid body area and by having completely different colour patterns in the throat and dorsal neck region.

Key words: Sri Lanka, *Cnemaspis*, Gannoruwa, *Cnemaspis ranwellai*, New species

Introduction

The gecko fauna of Sri Lanka are represented by 25 species and subspecies, of which 15 taxa are endemic, with 12 at species level and the rest at sub-species level. The Gekkonid genus *Cnemaspis* Strauch, 1887, is distributed from southern to south-eastern Asia and Africa (Das, 1993; Bauer and Das, 1998; Das and Bauer, 1998, 2000), and is represented in Sri Lanka by four described species, i.e. *C. kandiana* (Kelaart, 1853), *C. tropidogaster* (Boulenger, 1885), *C. jerdoni scalapensis* (Ferguson, 1877) and *C. podihuna* Deraniyagala, 1944. Further *Gymnodactylus humei* Theobald, 1876 of which the type locality is Kandy, is considered to be a synonym for *C. kandiana* (Taylor, 1953; Das and Bauer, 2000; Das and Grismor, 2003, Das, 2005), a highland endemic of Sri Lanka (Das, 2005). Of these species, the endemic *C. podihuna* is very rare, and is the smallest gecko in Sri Lanka (Deraniyagala, 1944). *Cnemaspis jerdoni scalapensis* is endemic to the island at subspecies level (Das, 2001). *C. tropidogaster*, is common in most parts of the lowland wet zone of the island. (Deraniyagala, 1953; Wickramasinghe, 2000; Wickramasinghe and Somaweera, 2002).