

Taxonomic status of the gecko *Pseudotothecadactylus lindneri cavaticus* Cogger

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Abstract

Pseudotothecadactylus lindneri cavaticus is partly redescribed and elevated to a full species on the basis of examination of additional material.

The description of *Pseudotothecadactylus lindneri cavaticus* Cogger 1975 was based on three specimens from the Mitchell Plateau area of Western Australia. It was distinguished from *P. lindneri lindneri* Cogger 1975 of the Arnhem Land Escarpment in the Northern Territory by its apparent lack of preanal pores (preanal pores present in nominate *P. lindneri*), its moderately heterogeneous dorsal and lateral scales (scales homogenous in nominate *P. lindneri*) its dorsal pattern (dorsal bands less prominent in nominate *P. lindneri*) and by having the rostral usually contacting the nostril (rostral excluded from nostril in nominate *P. lindneri*). Subsequent material confirms the absence of preanal pores in *P. lindneri cavaticus* and other differences between it and nominate *P. lindneri*. On the basis of these data *P. lindneri cavaticus* is partly redescribed and elevated to a full species.

Diagnosis

Distinguished from other *Pseudotothecadactylus* by its lack of preanal pores.

Description

A large *Pseudotothecadactylus* (up to 22.5 cm long). Snout-vent length 90-115 mm. Tail 90-108% of SVL.

Rostral 1.75-2.2 times as wide as high (mean 2.0), rarely with a short, weak median groove. Nostril surrounded by first labial, rostral (usually), prenasal (sometimes), 2 supranasals and 4-6 postnasals.

Internasals 2-3. Upper labials 10-14 (mean 12.4). Mental concave, truncate, in contact with postmental. Digits large, compressed, with a continuous double series of 13-19 (mean 16.7) lamellae under forth tow. Scales on snout flat, polygonal, on crown, back and upper surfaces of limbs rounded, moderately heterogenous, raised and (often on back) compressed thus forming a blunt keel. Preanal pores absent. Males with 1-3 (mostly 2) tubercles in cloacal spur.

Head whitish, mottled brown. Body creamish with 5-7 dark-edged brown bands (sometimes bifurcating). Tail with 9-11 dark edged bands.

Remarks

Pseudotothecadactylus cavaticus is larger than *P. lindneri* (SVL 96-115 mm v. 67-107 mm) and has more subdigital lamellae under the fourth toe (13-19, mean 16.7 v. 12-17, mean 15.2).

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Material examined

Material examined is housed in the Western Australian Museum and Australian Museum R series (designated WAM and AM respectively).

Pseudothecadactylus cavaticus (all WAM specimens and includes 9 males): Mitchell Plateau area (R43137, 43175, 43176 [holotype], 56161-62, 56176-77, 60690, 61638, 64882, 77033-34, 77626), Boongaree I. (44078-79), Prince Regent River (46973).

Pseudothecadactylus lindneri (includes 11 males): El Sharana (WAM 74001-03), Deaf Adder Creek (AM37129-33, 39520-21, 42123), Mt Brockman Range (AM38730-32, 38735), Oenpelli (AM76506), Jabiluka area (AM88616).

Acknowledgement

I am grateful to A.E. Greer, Curator of Reptiles Australian Museum Sydney for the loan of *Pseudothecadactylus lindneri* specimens.

Reference

Cogger, H.G. (1975). New lizards of the genus *Pseudothecadactylus* (Lacertilia: Gekkonidae) from Arnhem Land and northwestern Australia. *Rec. Aust. Mus.* 30: 87-97.

Guide to Authors

Subject Matter

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In papers dealing with historical subjects references may be cited as footnotes. In all other papers references must be cited in the text by author and date and all must be listed alphabetically at the end of the paper. The names of journals are abbreviated according to *World List of Scientific Periodicals*. The use of 'unpublished data' or 'personal communication' is discouraged.

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