2002), thus, the records presented here represent not only a significant eastern range extension for the species, but also new state and national records.

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LEPIDODACTYLUS (SQUAMATA: GEKKONIDAE) IN ISLANDS ASIA: A *L. AUREOLINEATUS* FROM SULAWESI

Lepidodactylus geckos are modestly abundant lizards in many Oceania herpetofaunas but become increasingly uncommon to rare in the faunas of the larger islands and island groups of the Pacific Rim, and even more uncommon in Islands Asia. This rarity has no current explanation, nor am I aware that anyone has attempted to explain it. Thus, a specimen of *Lepidodactylus* from Sulawesi in the Naturalis collection was unexpected.

Presently, four species of *Lepidodactylus* are reported from Islands Asia. *L. lugubris* is the most widespread of these four and occurs in Cu Lao (Vietnam), Borneo, Sulawesi, Ambon, Halmahera, Ternate, Komodo, and Lombok in this area (Ineich, 1999). Because of its occurrence also throughout the Pacific and coastally from other Asian islands and mainland (de Rooij, 1915), *L. lugubris* must be considered an exotic species, probably beginning its human-mediated dispersal within the last five centuries through European shipping. Its hybrid origin lies in east-

ern Micronesia and is relatively recent (Radtkey et al., 1996). The other species are older island residents, arriving and differentiating presumably well before the arrival of humans in Asia. These species have limited distributions: *L. lombocensis*, Lombok; *L. intermedius*, Komodo and Rintja Islands.; *L. ranauensis*, Borneo (Sabah). Another species, *L. listeri*, occurs to the west on Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean.

The preceding five taxa represent the three phenetic groups (Brown and Parker, 1977) of *Lepidodactylus*. *L. lugubris* is a Group III member, *L. intermedius* and *L. lombocensis* Group II, *L. listeri* Group I, and *L. ranauensis* intermediate between Group I and II (Ota and Hikida, 1988; Bauer, 1994; Ota et al., 2000). Group III appears to be most derived "clade" of *Lepidodactylus*, and with the exception of *L. lugubris*, Group III members occur on Pacific islands with the greatest diversity in the Philippines. The Naturalis specimen (RMNH 7341, Groot Sanghis, e/o [= vicinity of] Soemalata) from the north coast of Sulawesi was hidden under the *lugubris* epithet but a close examination revealed its misidentification and dissection revealed that it was a mature male. My initial assumption was that this specimen represented a new species, but further examination revealed it to be a *L. aureolineatus* and a likely introduction from the Philippines.

Brown and Alcala (1994:78–101) provide a thorough overview of the Philippine *Lepidodactylus*. They recognize two sections of Group III *Lepidodactylus*. Section A geckos have 4ToeL (see Zug et al., 2003 for character abbreviations and definitions) greater than 12, tail only moderately depressed and no lateral skin flange, and combined femoral-precloacal pores greater than 26. RMNH 7341 has 13 4ToeLm, moderately depressed tail without flange, and 29 FemPor + PreclPor. Additionally, it has 115 Midb, which differentiates it from *L. herrei*, the other section A *Lepidodactylus*. In summary, RMNH 7341 is an adult male with large testes and epididymides, 35.7 mm SVL, 15.7 mm TrunkL, 42 mm TailL (regenerated tip), 9.4 mm HeadL, 6.5 mm HeadW, 9 Suplab, 8 Inflab, 3 CircNa, 31 IntorbS, 2 CloacS, 16 PreclP, and 8 4FingLm.

The northern peninsula of Sulawesi is ca. 400 km from southern Mindanao and linked by an arc of islands (Kepulauan Sangihe). This arc might have permitted natural dispersal; however, regular boat traffic occurs between these two coasts (C. A. Ross, pers. comm. Sept. 2005). As a regular resident of coconut palms and aerial ferns, individuals of *Lepidodactylus aureolineatus* might commonly be transported to Sulawesi. Fortuitously, a single individual was captured and preserved by a Dutch biologist in the late 1930s.

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