

A Second Record of *Ptyctolaemus gularis* (Peters, 1864) from Bangladesh

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Abstract.- *Ptyctolaemus gularis* (Peters, 1864), the blue-throated lizard, was collected from a hilly stream in Rangamat District in Bangladesh in July 2003 and November 2004, representing the second recorded occurrence of this species in Bangladesh.

Keywords.- *Ptyctolaemus gularis*, blue-throated lizard, occurrence, habitat, ecology, morphology, Bangladesh.

Introduction

The blue-throated lizard, *Ptyctolaemus gularis* (Peter, 1864), has been previously described from Meghalaya, Assam, the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Tibet and China (Boulenger, 1890; Hora, 1926; Smith, 1935; Zhao and Adler, 1993). Boulenger (1890), who developed the lizard taxonomy of the Indian Subcontinent, examined two specimens of *P. gularis*, the type specimen from Calcutta, preserved in the Berlin Museum, and a specimen from Sadiya, Assam, in the British Museum. Following Boulenger (op. cit.), Hora (1926) reported ten specimens from Assam and Nainimukh (correctly spelled Mainimukh), Chittagong Hill Tracts, which are presently deposited in the Zoological Survey of India. The single specimen from Nainimukh represented the first record of this species in Bangladesh. This record has been subsequently overlooked by other authors, including Ahsan, 1998; Khan, 1982; Sarker and Sarker, 1988.

Observations and Discussion

During a herpetological survey of Bangladesh, one specimen of *Ptyctolaemus gularis* was collected from Rangamati District (part of the Chittagong Hill Tracts) on 18 July 2003 (Fig. 1). Two other specimens were later collected from Rampahar about 50 km east of Chittagong City in Kaptai National Park (22.30.425' N, 092.10.446' E), Rangamati District, on 25 November 2004 (Fig. 1). The first specimen was collected from Rupkari Chara (23.12.126' N, 092.10.628' E), a hilly stream of the Rupkari Union Parishad under Baghaichari Upazila. The collection site is approximately 7 km northwest from the Baghaichari Upazila headquarter. At the time of collection, approximately 1300 h, the specimen was observed on a large stone hunting insects. This

specimen has been deposited in the departmental museum of Zoology, University of Chittagong, Chittagong, Bangladesh (Fig. 2A, B). The other two specimens, currently in the collection of S. Chakma, were collected approximately 150 m apart between 1300 and 1400 h. These animals were also collected while they were hunting for insects. One of us (MFA) also observed this species in Chittagong at the Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary in 1990.

With these new records, it is likely that *Ptyctolaemus gularis* also occurs in the hills of Sherpur, Jamalpur, Hobiganj, Moulvibazar, Sylhet (i.e., British-Indian Assam), Khagrachari, Bandarban (part of Chittagong Hill Tracts) and Cox's Bazar Districts in Bangladesh, which share similar habitats.

Habitat and Ecology

Ptyctolaemus gularis is a terrestrial, diurnal species that is frequently found south of the Brahmaputra River in India (Smith, 1935; Daniel, 2002) and uncommonly encountered in the southeastern hilly forests of Bangladesh. It is most often observed in search of food on land, stones and logs near streams and water-logs. The first collection locality visited in 2003 was a narrow stony stream, with the hills on both sides covered with bamboo brakes (muli [*Melocanna bambusoides*]), gameri (*Gmelina arborea*) and teak (*Tectona grandis*) trees. Ferns and some natural herbs grew between the stones. The second and third specimens collected in 2004 were found on the slopes of a hilly, stony stream close to a waterfall. The upper canopy was dominated by garjan (*Dipterocarpus* spp.) and gutgutia (*Protium serratum*) trees, and the lower canopy and forest floor were densely covered by shrubs and herbs.

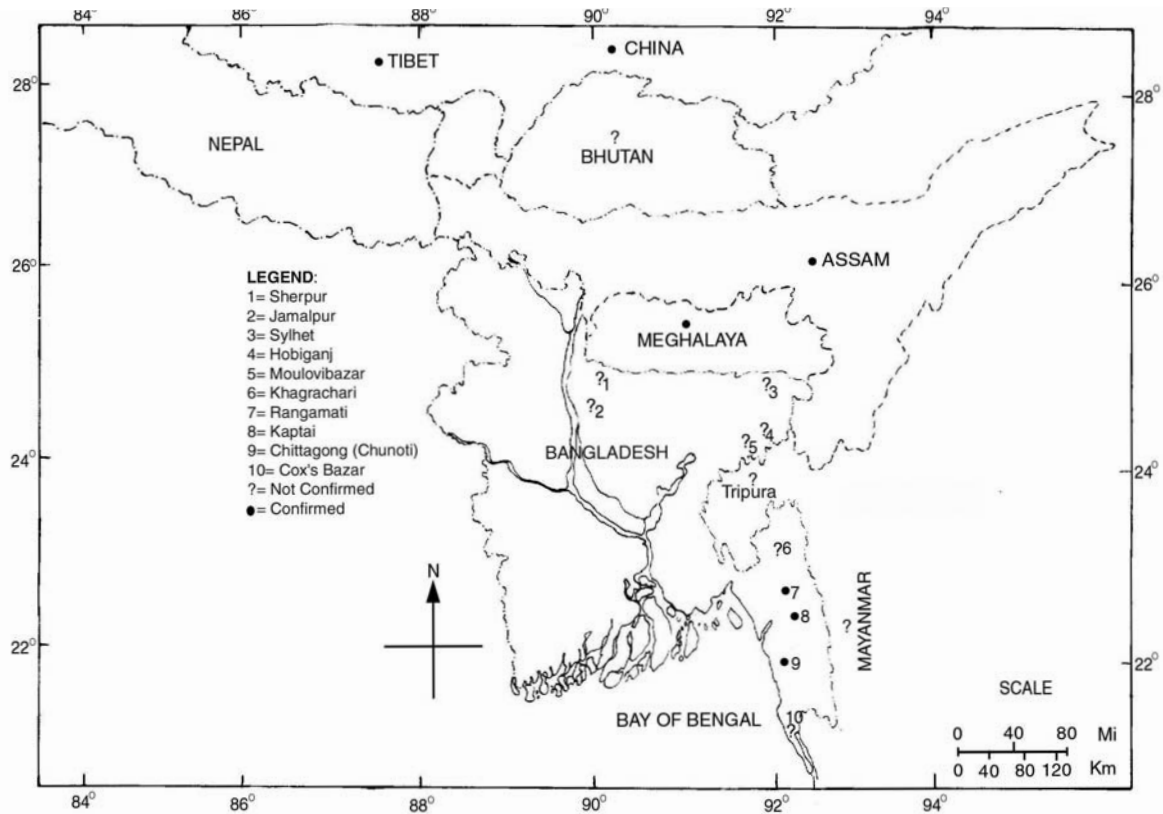


Figure 1. Map showing collection localities.

Identification

The collected specimens can be most readily separated from congeners by having three parallel longitudinal folds on each side of the throat that converge posteriorly (cf. Boulenger, 1890; Smith, 1935) (Fig. 2C). Other useful characters include an olive-brown dorsum with dark transverse bars and/or spots, two curved dark brown cross-bars between the eyes separated by a central light bar, a dark stripe below the eye to the angle of the mouth, dark blue throat folds, and limbs and a tail with dark cross-bars above and yellowish-white cross-bars below (cf. Boulenger, 1890; Smith, 1935).

The head is also rather long and narrow with unequally-sized upper scales that are strongly keeled. The dorsal body scales are also unequally-sized, with large, strongly-keeled scales and smaller feeble ones.

Several mid-dorsal rows also point backwards and upwards and the ventral scales are strongly keeled and mucronate. The limbs are moderate in size; the third and fourth fingers are equal while the fourth toe is much longer than the third. The tail is rounded, slender and covered with sub-equal keeled scales (cf. Boulenger, 1890; Smith, 1935). Table 1 compares the lengths of the present specimens with those collected previously.

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank Dr. M. A. G. Khan and an anonymous reviewer(s), who kindly reviewed an earlier version of this manuscript. Mr. M. S. Islam and Mr. M. A. W. Chowdhury kindly helped in drawing the map.

Table 1. Comparison of recently collected specimens with those from earlier collections.

Snout-vent length (mm)	Tail length (mm)	Source
76.3* (77,69, 83)	167.7* (157, 166, 180)	Present report
80	170	Smith 1935
45.7	162.5	Hora 1926
69.85 (2.75")	158.75 (6.25")	Boulenger 1890

* Mean and raw data within brackets

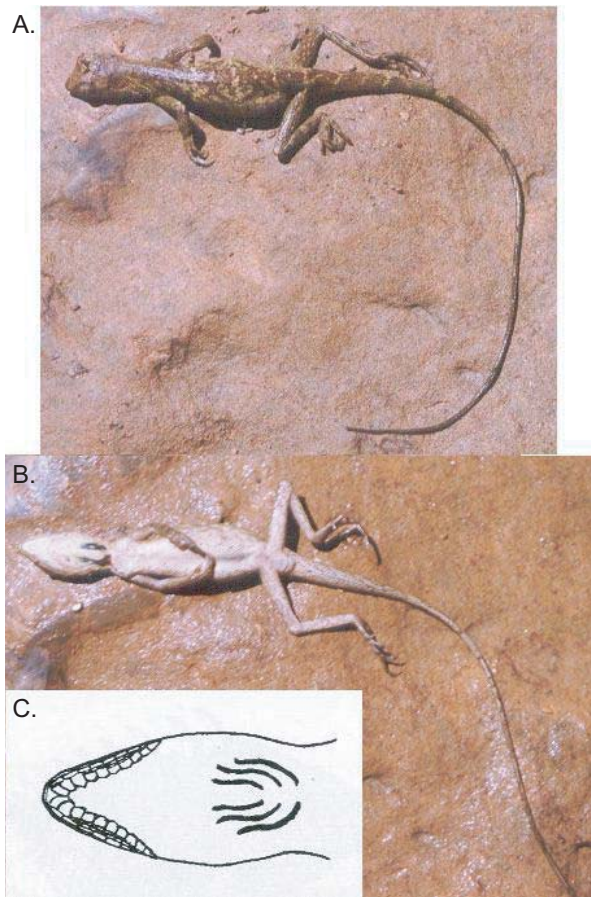


Figure 2. Dorsal (A) and ventral (B) aspects of *Ptyctolaemus gularis* collected. Inset (C) shows the gular region folds converging posteriorly, diagnostic of this species.

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