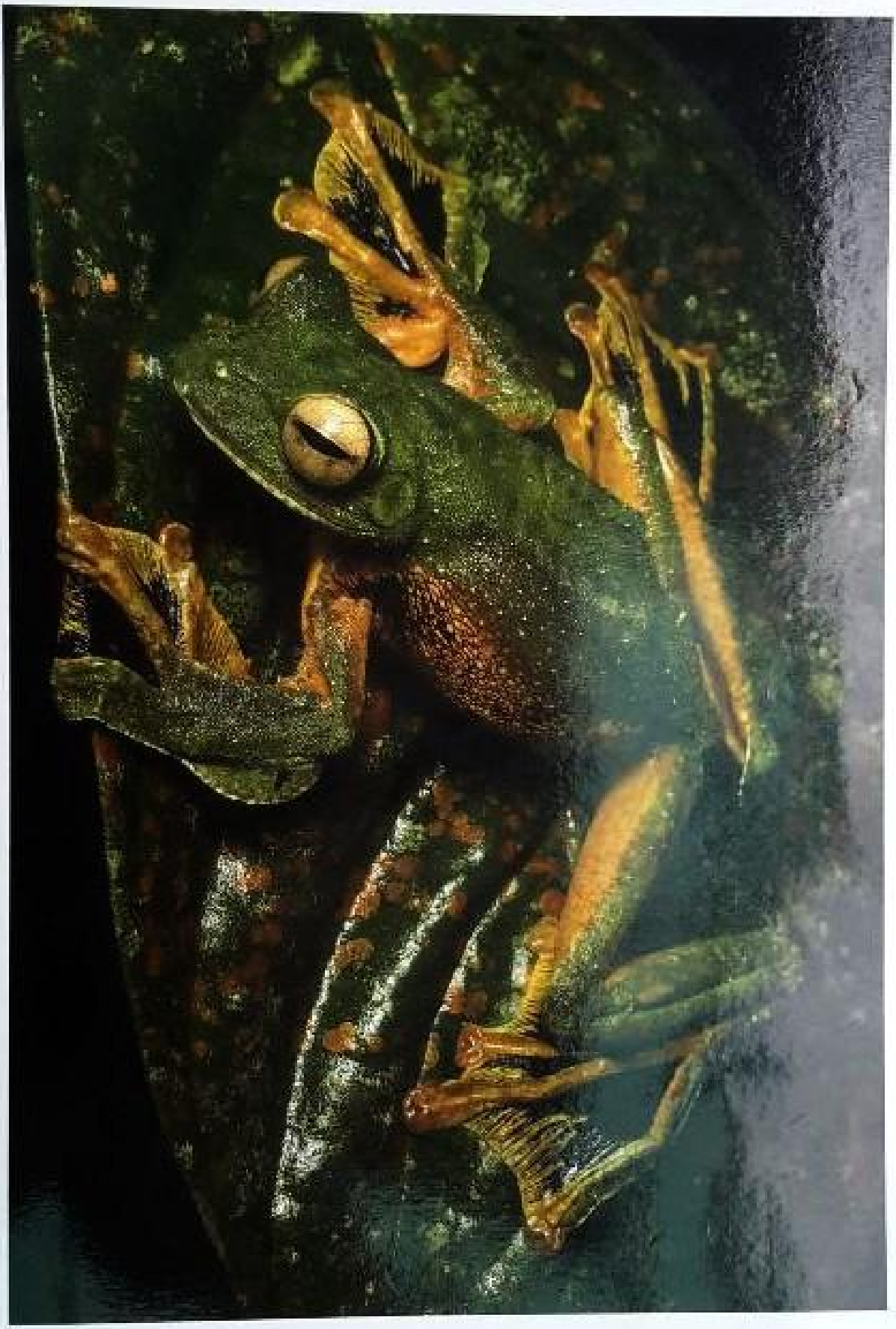
HAMADRYAD



VOL. 38 NO. 1 & 2

APRIL, 2018

HAMADRYAD

Journal of the Centre for Herpetology, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust

Front cover: Wallace's flying frog (*Rhacophorus nigropalmatus*). Photo taken in Semenyih, Peninsular Malaysia, January 2017 by Damien Esquerré (www.desquerre.com), Division of Ecology and Evolution, Research School of Biology, The Australian National University.

Back cover: White-lipped island pit viper (*Trimeresurus insularis*). Photo was taken on the island of Flores, Indonesia, April 2017, by Damien Esquerré (www.desquerre.com), Division of Ecology and Evolution, Research School of Biology, The Australian National University.

HAMADRYAD
Vol. 38, No. 1 & 2, April 2018
Date of issue: 30 April 2018
ISSN 0972-205X

J. Vinh An. 30.5.2018

Ông Vĩnh An.

CONTENTS

Hamadryad Vol. 38, No. 1 & 2, pp. 27 – 31, 2018.

New record of *Scincella apraefrontalis* (Squamata: Scincidae) from Pu Hoat Nature Reserve, Nghe An Province, Vietnam

In 2009, Nguyen, Ho and Nguyen recognised three species of genus *Scincella* (Mittleman 1950) in Vietnam: *Scincella doriae* (Boulenger, 1887), *S. melanosticta* (Boulenger, 1887) and *S. reevesii* (Gray, 1838). Between 2010 and 2011, six more species were reported for the country or transferred to *Scincella* from *Sphenomorphus*, giving nine species for the country: *S. darevskii* (Nguyen, Ananjeva, Orlov, Rybaltovsky & Böhme, 2010), described from a single specimen from Tuan Giao District, Dien Bien Province, and *S. ochracea* (Bourret, 1937), resurrected from the synonymy of *S. reevesi* for specimens from Lai Chau Province (Nguyen *et al*. 2010a); *S. monticola* (Schmidt, 1925) discovered in Mau Son Commune, Loc Binh District, Lang Son Province (Nguyen *et al*. 2010b); *S. apraefrontalis*, described from Huu Lien Nature Reserve, Huu Lung District, Lang Son Province (Nguyen *et al*. 2010c), and *S. rufocaudatus* (Darevsky & Nguyen, 1983) and *S. devorator* (Darevsky, Orlov & Ho, 2004), transferred to the genus by Nguyen *et al*. (2011).

Until now, *Scincella apraefrontalis* was now only known from the holotype. Herein, we present a new locality for this species, based on a single specimen collected in Pu Hoat Nature Reserve in August 2012.

The adult male lizard was found on the ground at midday on 3 August 2012, approximately 10 m from a large stream in evergreen forest in Pu

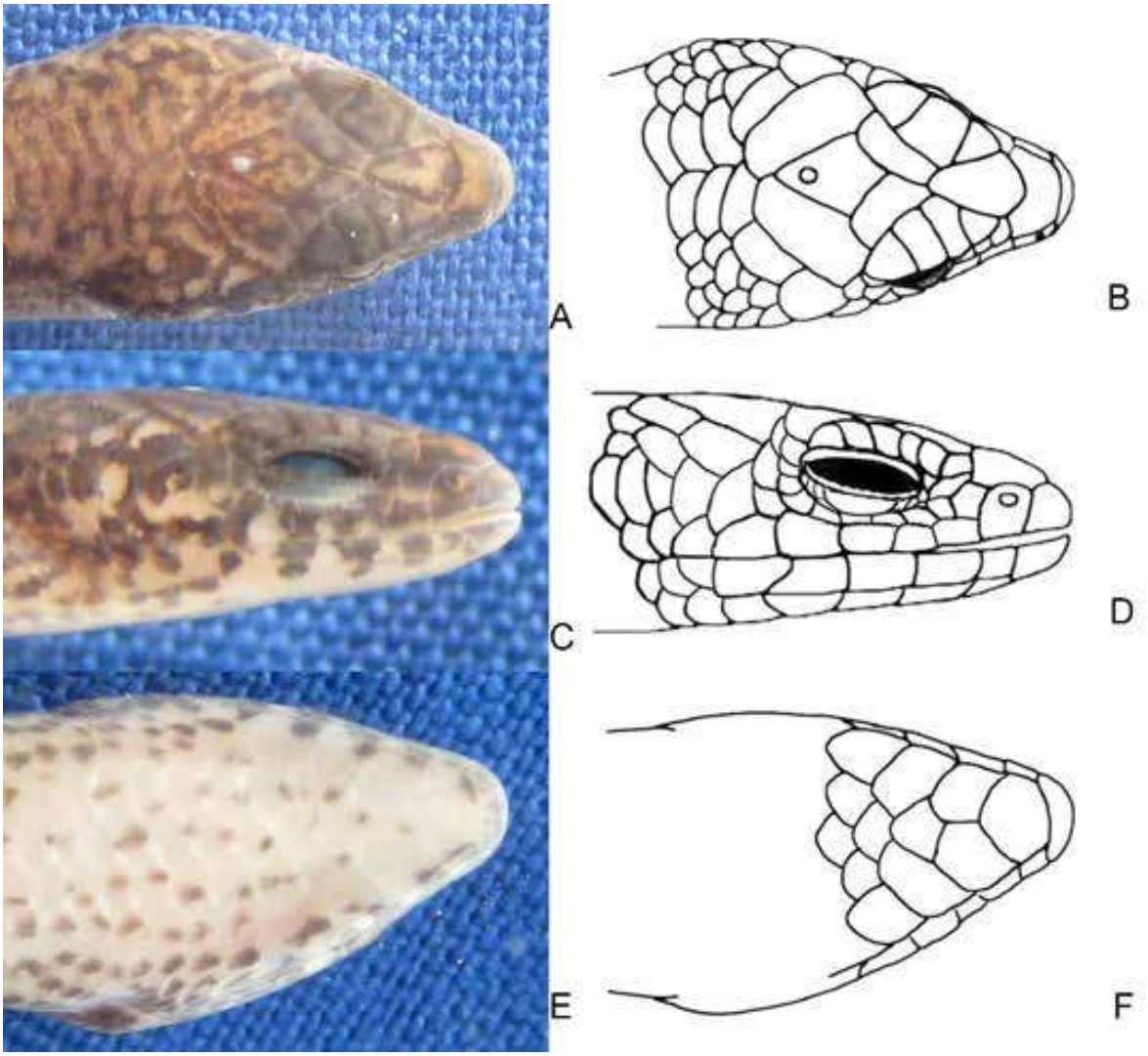


Figure 1. Head of *Scincella apraefrontalis* HDU03029: a–b, dorsal view; c–d, lateral view; e–f, ventral view. Photos by Thao Ngoc Hoang.

Table 1. Measurements (in mm) and selected morphological characters of *Scincella apraefrontalis* from Pu Hoat Nature Reserve compared with the holotype (Nguyen *et al.* 2010c).

	Pu Hoat Nature Reserve (HDU03029)	*Scincella apraefrontalis* **holotype (IEBR A.0832)**
SVL	31.3	36.1
TaL	22.3 (unregenerated part only)	lost
AG	17.8	21.4
FIL	4.7	5.1
HIL	6.8	8.1
HL	5.1	5.5
HW	4.2	4.3
SVL/HW	7.45	8.40
HD	2.7	3.3
SL	1.8	2.4
STL	5.6	6.0
SFIL	10.0	11.9
ENL	1.0	0.9
EL	1.3	1.6
ETL	1.8	-
External ear opening	Absent	Absent
Digits on forelimb	5	5
Prefrontals	Absent	Absent
Supraoculars (L/R)	3/4	4/4
Nuchals (L/R)	3/3	2/3
Nasal fused to first supralabial	yes	yes
Supranasals	Absent	Absent
Loreals	1	1
Supraciliaries (L/R)	6/6	6/6
Supralabials (L/R)	6/6	6/6
Lower eyelid	Opaque window	Opaque window
Infralabials (L/R)	5/5	5/5
Midbody scale rows	18	18
Dorsal scale rows between lateral stripes	4	4
Dorsal scales in comparison to lateral scales	Larger	Larger
Paravertebral scales	48	52
Ventrals in transverse rows	50	50
Enlarged precloacals	2	2
Subdigital lamellae on 4th toe (L/R)	8/7	8/9
Limbs when adpressed	Separated	Separated
Longest finger reaching to eye	No	No

Hoat Nature Reserve, Que Phong District, Nghe An Province, Vietnam (19.750°N, 104.809°E, 714 m) by Vinh Quang Dau, Lam Thi Hong Le and Hai Thi Thanh Chau. The specimen (HDU03029) is deposited in the Zoological Department, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Hong Duc University, Thanh Hoa Province, Vietnam.

Measurements were made with a dial caliper to the nearest 0.1 mm. The following measurements were taken: snout-vent length (SVL);

Figure 2. *Scincella apraefrontalis* in Pu Hoat Nature Reserve (in life). Photo by Dau Quang Vinh.

axilla to groin length (AG); tail length (TaL); forelimb length (FlL); hind limb length (HlL); maximum head length (from tip of snout to posterior margin of parietal) (HL); maximum head width (HW); maximum head depth (HD); snout length (from tip of snout to anterior corner of eye) (SL); snout to tympanum length (to anterior margin of tympanic crease) (STL); snout-forelimb length (SFlL); eye to nostril length (to anterior corner of eye) (ENL); eye length (EL), and eye to tympanum length (from anterior border of tympanic crease to the posterior corner of eye) (ETL).

The following scalation characters need definition: nuchal scales (transversely broadened paravertebral scales behind parietals, twice the width of the subsequent paravertebral scales, counted on both sides); paravertebral scales (number of scales from posterior edge of parietals to a point above and opposite the vent); ventral scales (number of scales along the ventral midline, from and including the first gular scale between the second pair of chin shields, to the vent). Subdigital lamellae (number of lamellae under the first to fifth fingers and toes, including the terminal scale sheathing the claw) were counted on both sides. Scales in longitudinal series are numbered from anteriorly to posteriorly. The new specimen is described as follows.

Head longer than wide (HW/HL 82.4%), distinct from neck. Snout rounded anteriorly; rostral twice as wide as high, visible from above. Supranasals absent; frontonasal wider than long, in contact with rostral anteriorly, and with nasal, loreal, preocular, first supraciliary and frontal posterolaterally. Prefrontals absent. Frontal longer than wide, narrowed posteriorly, as long as distance to the snout; in contact with frontonasal, first supraciliary, first and second supraoculars, and frontoparietals. A pair of frontoparietals, in contact with each other anteriorly and with frontal, two (left) or three (right) posterior supraoculars, parietals and interparietal. Interparietal lozenge-shaped, between frontoparietals and parietals; parietal eye spot present as a small opaque white spot near posterior end of interparietal; parietals in contact with each other posterior to interparietal. Three pairs of nuchals.

Nostril in undivided nasal; nasal and first supralabial fused. Loreal single, in contact with

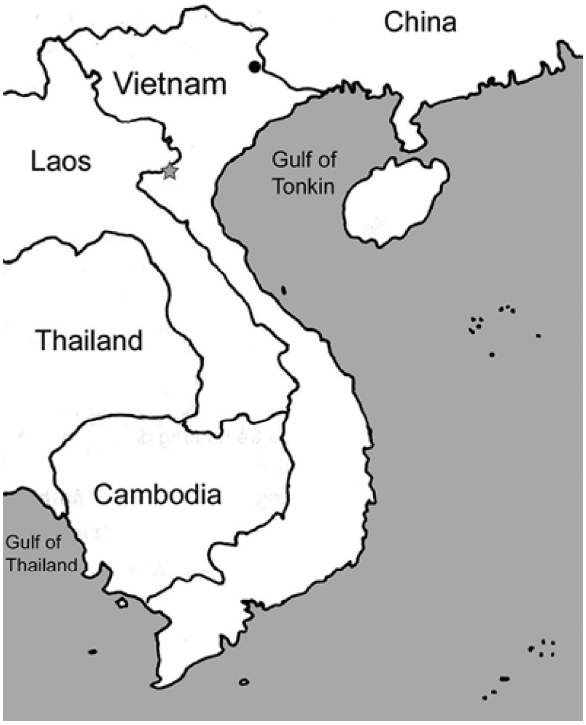


Figure 3. Locality records of *Scincella apraefrontalis*: Pu Hoat Nature Reserve (star) and Lang Son province (type locality; closed circle).

nasal, frontonasal, preocular, anterior presubocular, and second supralabial. Preocular single, in contact with a small part of frontonasal, anterior supraciliaries, anterior presubocular and loreal. Two presuboculars, anterior presubocular in contact with loreal, preocular, and second supralabial; posterior presubocular in contact with second and third supralabials. Supraoculars four (right), three (left), the reduction to three apparently due to fusion of second and third supraoculars of the normal four scales. Supraciliaries six, followed by an upper postocular that has entered the supraciliary row, and is in contact with the fourth supraocular and upper postsubocular, but separated from the parietal by a narrow scale posterior to the fourth supraocular (based on the definitions of head scalation provided by Taylor (1935), this narrow scale would be the last supraciliary, separated from the others by the intrusion of the upper postocular into the supraciliary row). Postsuboculars three, lowermost contacting fifth supralabial. Lower eyelid with an undivided opaque window, separated from supralabials by a row of small scales. External ear opening absent.

Supralabials six, first fused to nasal. Infralabials five. Mental rounded anteriorly, wider than long, in contact with the first infralabial and postmental, which is undivided; three pairs of enlarged chinshields, the anterior pair in medial contact; second pair widest, separated from each other by a single gular scale; last pair separated from each other by three gular scales.

SVL 31.2 mm; distal part of tail regenerated. Body slender (SVL/HW 7.45), slightly elongate (AGL/SVL 56.9%). Limbs short (FlL/SVL 15.0%; HlL/SVL 21.7%), pentadactyl; forelimbs and hindlimbs widely separated when adpressed ((FlL+HlL)/AGL 51.6%). Number of lamellae under the first to fifth fingers (in order): 4,6,7L/6R,5,5; under the first to fifth toes: 4,8,9,8L/7R,5.

Head shields and dorsal scales smooth. Scales on body dorsum hexagonal, overlapping, larger than lateral scales. Mid-body scales in 18 rows; lateral scales in 4 rows; paravertebral scales 48; ventral scales 50; medial pair of precloacals enlarged and overlapping the adjacent lateral precloacals. Median subcaudals wider than adjacent subcaudals. Tail thick at base, tail tip regenerated; 28 rows of subcaudals to the point of regeneration.

In life (Fig. 2), the following coloration was present: head shields and scales on dorsum and tail base bronze brown with some indistinct darker spots in anterior part of each scale; a dark streak from snout across eye to the tympanic depression; four dark streaks from below the eye extending down the upper and lower lip; laterally paler with four longitudinal dark brown stripes beginning posteriorly to the posterior end of the jaw, and extending to hindlimb; chin and throat with dark spots; venter and underside of tail base cream. In preservative (stored in 70% ethanol), the color is paler.

The specimen was identified as *S. apraefrontalis* by possessing the following diagnostic character states for the species (Nguyen *et al*. 2010c): supranasals absent; prefrontals absent; nasal and first supralabial fused; loreal single; supralabials six; infralabials five; lower eyelid with an undivided opaque window; external ear absent; longitudinal rows of scales at midbody 18, and limbs short, pentadactyl, widely separated when adpressed.

In general, the newly collected specimen agrees well (Table 1) with the description of *S. apraefrontalis* by Nguyen *et al.* (2010c), but differs slightly from it in having fewer paravertebral scale rows (48 *versus* 52 scales), and fewer lamellae under the fourth toe.

The new record extends the known distribution of the species approximately 265 km southwest of the type locality in Lang Son Province (Fig. 3). Like the holotype from Huu Lien Nature Reserve, the specimen from Pu Hoat Nature Reserve was found active during the daytime. It was found on the ground in evergreen forest at 714 m elevation, while the holotype was found among leaf litter on the ground of secondary limestone forest at an altitude of 200 m a.s.l. (Nguyen *et al.* 2010b). Our new record provides evidence that *Scincella apraefrontalis* is not endemic to limestone habitat, but until more data are available from additional localities, the habitat preferences of this species remain undefined. Further work is also needed to determine whether the distribution of the species is continuous between the two widely separated localities.

Acknowledgements

Vinh University, and Mr. Le Trong Nguyen and staff at the Forest Protection Department of Nghe An Province kindly facilitated surveys and issued permission to collect. Lam Thi Hong Le and Hai Thi Thanh Chau assisted with fieldwork and in the laboratory. The research was supported by funding from ADM Capital Foundation and The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Literature Cited

MITTLEMAN, M. B. 1950. The generic status of *Scincus lateralis* Say, 1823. *Herpetologica* 6: 17–20.

NGUYEN, V. S., T. C. HO & Q. T. NGUYEN. 2009. Herpetofauna of Vietnam. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 768 pp.

NGUYEN, Q. T., N. B. ANANJEVA, N. L. ORLOV, E. RYBALTOVSKY & W. BÖHME. 2010a. A new species of the genus *Scincella* Mittlemann, 1950 (Squamata: Scincidae) from Vietnam. *Russian Journal of Herpetology* 17: 269–274.

NGUYEN, Q. T., T. T. NGUYEN, W. BÖHME & T. ZIEGLER. 2010b. First record of the mountain ground skink *Scincella monticola* (Schmidt, 1925) (Squamata: Scincidae) from Vietnam. *Russian Journal of Herpetology* 17: 67–69.

NGUYEN, Q. T., V. S. NGUYEN, W. BÖHME & T. ZIEGLER. 2010c. A new species of *Scincella* (Squamata: Scincidae) from Vietnam. *Folia Zoologica* 59: 115–121.

NGUYEN, Q. T., A. SCHMITZ, T. T. NGUYEN, N. L. ORLOV, W. BÖHME & T. ZIEGLER. 2011. Review of the genus *Sphenomorphus* Fitzinger, 1843 (Squamata: Sauria: Scincidae) in Vietnam, with description of a new species from northern Vietnam and southern China and the first record of *Sphenomorphus mimicus* Taylor, 1962 from Vietnam. *Journal of Herpetology* 45: 145–154.

TAYLOR, E. H. 1935. A taxonomic study of the cosmopolitan scincoid lizards of the genus *Eumeces* with an account of the distribution and relationships of its species. *Kansas University Science Bulletin* 23: 19–643.

Vinh Quang Dau[1,*], Glenn Shea[2,3], Thao Ngoc Hoang[1], and An Vinh Ong[4]

[1]Hong Duc University, 565 Quang Trung St, Dong Ve Ward, Thanh Hoa City, Vietnam.

[2]Sydney School of Veterinary Science B01, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia.

[3]Australian Museum Research Institute, Australian Museum, 1 William St, Sydney, NSW 2010, Australia.

[4]Department of Zoology, Vinh University, 182 Le Duan St, Vinh City, Nghe An, Vietnam.

*corresponding author Email: dauquangvinh@yahoo.com.vn

Received: 8 January 2017.
Accepted: 23 October 2017.

Hamadryad Vol. 38, No. 1 & 2, pp. 31 – 33, 2018.

Predation of an endemic Sri Lankan kangaroo lizard (*Otocryptis wiegmanni*) by a nephilid spider (Nephilengys sp.)

The classes Arachnida, Insecta, Crustacea and Chilopoda are considered predators of small vertebrates, including reptiles and amphibians (McCormick & Polis 1982). Among the four classes, Arachnida is most often recorded as preying on small reptiles and amphibians and arachnid predation may be a significant cause of mortality for natural populations of both groups (Bauer 1990; Armas 2000; Barbo *et al*. 2009; Maffei *et al*. 2010). The orb webs of spiders are highly effective, efficient and specialized for the capture various prey types (Herberstein & Tso 2000; Blackledge 2011). Blondheim & Werner (1989) and Schwammer & Baurecht (1988) reported several species of widow-spiders (*Latrodectus*, Theridiidae) preying on lizards (*Mesalina guttulata* and *Podarcis meliselensis*, Lacertidae), Bauer (1990) summarised predation of geckos (Gekkota) by spiders, and Armas & Alayón (1987) witnessed the lizards *Anolis porcatus* and *A.sagrei* (Dactyloidae) being preyed upon by the banded garden spider, *Argiope trifasciata* (Araneidae). We here report a predatory incident on an endemic Sri Lankan Kangaroo Lizard (*Otocryptis wiegmanni*) by a