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Short Communication

OCCURRENCE OF *DRACO NORVILLI* ALCOCK (REPTILIA : SAURIA : AGAMIDAE) IN MEGHALAYA, NORTH EAST INDIA

INTRODUCTION

According to Smith, (1935) some forty species of *Draco* are distributed over the Indo-Chinese region, the East Indian Archipelago, and the Phillipine Islands and one species in southern India thereby setting an example of its discontinuous distribution. In North-East India the genus is distributed over Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. A single specimen of *Draco norvilli* Alcock was collected from Maweit some 40 km away from Nongstoin in West Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya on 13th November, 2005 by Jeffrey Pohrmen. The specimen had its left hand maimed but otherwise is in good condition. Since pictures of this species are not available in literature I furnish here a detailed account of the specimen along with the pictures.

DESCRIPTION

Snout slightly turned upwards, nostrils dorsal and pointed slightly backwards, five scales between them. Tympanum scaly. Upper head scales unequal; a tubercle behind the orbit, two behind tympanum, one below lower jaw corner, series of tubercles dorso-laterally on body. Forelimbs long, slender, when straightened anteriorly the wrist cross the tip of snout.

Body greyish with mid dorsal spots, one on the head, five on body; indistinct bands on tail (Plate I). Patagium supported by five ribs and with three transverse bands; the first band indistinct, second and third scarlet and bifurcate as they approach the body. Ground colour of patagium, dorsally and ventrally, yellowish with irregular dark spots dorsally (Plate II). ten to eleven enlarged scales at regular intervals bordering the patagium. Throat and chin mottled with purple. Inside of wattles scarlet. Gular appendage longer than head, distendable, covered with large scales and of very faded purple colour. Lower portion of thigh and sides of tail with crest. Belly almost uniform yellowish, sides mottled with grey (Plate II).

MEASUREMENTS

Snout to vent–110 mm, tail 155 mm. Head length–14 mm (from the corner of jaw). Gular appendage–30 mm. Patagium (stretched)–40 mm. Wattle (stretched)–12 mm. Shoulder to elbow–18 mm. Elbow to wrist–20 mm. Thigh–20 mm. Shank–19 mm. The specimen is registered as VR/ERS/ZSI/237 and is incorporated in the collections of the ERS.

ABBREVIATIONS

mm–milimeters

VR/ERS/ZSI–Vertebrata/Reptilia/Eastern Regional Station/Zoological Survey of India.

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