

Comparison of the data of the two years is not possible as no detailed observation was carried out in 2010. But some species like Palm Bob, Common Flat, Common Leopard and Pea Blue were absent in 2011.

More observation on such assemblage of various species of butterflies in the canopy of different flowering trees of our area would be interesting as there are not many studies on butterflies in the canopy (Schulze *et al.* 2001).

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Occurrence of the Anaimalai Gecko *Hemidactylus anamallensis* Gunther, 1875 from Chembra, Wayanad, Kerala

Vivek Philip Cyriac*, Arjun C.P. and Tijo. K. Joy

Centre for Wildlife Studies, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Pookode, Wayanad, Kerala

*vivek_philip@yahoo.co.in

The genus *Hemidactylus* is a widely distributed and the second most specious genus among the gekkonine lizards of the world (Carranza and Arnold, 2006; Giri, 2008; Giri *et al.* 2009). It occurs in the old world tropics, the Mediterranean and also in the tropical America (Smith, 1935; Giri *et al.* 2009). In India this genus is presently represented by 28 species (Rohini and Karanat, 2010). Although this genus is one of the most explored groups among Indian geckos, nothing much is known about their distribution and natural history.

Hemidactylus anamallensis was described by Günther (1875) as *Gecko anamallensis* based on specimens from Anaimalai Hills. It was later placed under the genus *Hoplodactylus* by Boulenger (1885). Later Smith (1933) assigned it to a new genus called *Dravidagecko*. Subsequently it was shown that *Dravidagecko* is a Gekkonine gecko while *Hoplodactylus* is a diplo-dactyline gecko (Underwood, 1954; Kluge 1967). Bauer and Russell (1875) later placed this gecko in the Genus *Hemidactylus* based on its digital structure. Recent phylogenetic studies on the Indian *Hemidactylus* by Rohini and Karanth (2010) showed that *H. anamallensis* is basal to all other *Hemidactylus* and its allocation to this genus was again questioned. This gecko is known to be present in the hill ranges of Anaimalai, Palni, Tirunelveli and Eravikulam (Smith, 1935; Murthy, 1985; Das 2002).

During a study of the reptiles of Chembra peak of Mepadi forest range, two specimens of *Hemidactylus* geckos were observed on the walls of an abandoned building. Both specimens were caught, photographed and all necessary scalation details and measurements were collected. On examination both the geckos were found to be female; one was gravid with two eggs. The geckos were then released back in the same locality. The species was later confirmed as *Hemidactylus anamallensis*.

The species was identified as *Hemidactylus anamallensis* based on its overall grayish brown colouration, marbled with dark brown. The tail was thick at the base, cross-barred with dark brown and covered with small scales. Head was depressed and was covered with small granular scales. Rostral was without median groove, nasal in contact with the rostral and the first labial. Ventral scales were imbricate and smooth; Mentum was sub-triangular with 2 pairs of postmentals, the first pair in contact with each other, Subcaudals enlarged and uniform. This species is easily differentiated from all other *Hemidactylus* by the presence of undivided scensors on the toes. The measurements and pholidosis of the two specimens are provided in Table 1.

The geckos were found in an abandoned building at the base of Chembra peak (11°32'19"N 76°05'15") at an elevation of about 1090m ASL. These geckos are sympatric with *H. brookii* and *Cnemaspis* sp. Though some authors consider *H. anamallensis* to be widely distributed in the forests of the Western Ghats (Murthy, 1990; Daniel, 1983), their exact locality is not known and its distribution in the Western Ghats is poorly understood. The present report forms the first record of this species from Wayanad District, not mentioned by Thomas & Easa 1997, suggesting that the region is still largely unexplored with regard to the Herpetofauna.

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Table1: Morphometric Data of *Hemidactylus anamallensis* from Chembra, Wayanad

Parameters	Female 1	Female 2 (gravid)
Snout- vent Length	39.9	43.9
Tail Length	40.7	44.7
Tail Base Diameter	5.1	3.1
Axial to Groin length	25.4	25.8
Head Length	10.3	10.9
Head Width	9.5	8.1
Eye Diameter	3.2	2.8
Distance from posterior border of eye to anterior border of ear	4.1	3.1
Pholidosis		
Supralabials	10	9
Infralabials	7	7
Lamellae under 4 th finger	7	8
Lamellae under 4 th toe	9	10
Preano- femoral Pores	-	-



Hemidactylus anamallensis from Chembra, Wayanad; Inset showing undivided lamellae of the left leg

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