SYSTEMATICS AND BIOGEOGRAPHY OF BORNEAN GECKOS OF THE GENUS *CNEMASPIS* STRAUCH, 1887 (SAURIA: GEKKONIDAE), WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES

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ABSTRACT. - Three species of the gekkonid genus *Cnemaspis*, one of them new, are shown to occur on Borneo. The ranges of the species appear to hug the north-western coast of Borneo, all species being recorded from Sarawak State, East Malaysia. Such a distribution is similar to that reported for a lineage of the Dipterocarpaceae, with affinities in peninsular Malaya and the Rhiau Archipelago. It is thought that the present day distribution of the gekkonids may be influenced by the drainage of the ancient river basins of Sundaland which presumably stopped their dispersal into central and eastern Borneo.

KEYWORDS. - Geckos, Cnemaspis, Gekkonidae.

INTRODUCTION

The tropical Old World (Africa and Asia) gekkonid genus *Cnemaspis* Strauch, 1887, currently contains 36 valid species in the Oriental region (Kluge, 1996; Das, 1993). Three nominal species of the genus *Cnemaspis* have been reported from the island of Borneo: *Cnemaspis kendallii* (Gray, 1845), *Cnemaspis affinis* (Stoliczka, 1870) and *Cnemaspis nigridius* (Smith, 1925b). Dring (1979) reported a fourth species from Bintulu District, Sarawak, but did not formally describe it. The purpose of this paper is to refine the description of the contents of the genus *Cnemaspis* from Borneo. In the process, one new species from Sarawak, northwestern Borneo, is described, and the biogeography of the Sundaic species of the genus discussed.