

## A New Locality for the Rare Bornean Skink, *Lamprolepis vyneri* (Shelford, 1905) (Sauria: Scincidae)

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**Abstract.** - A specimen of the Bornean arboreal skink, *Lamprolepis vyneri* (Shelford, 1905), hitherto known from the holotype from Gunung Balingan, Sibul Division, Sarawak, and a second possible specimen from the upper reaches of Sungei Mahakam, Kalimantan, is reported from Bukit Balian, near the Kayan settlement of Kelep, at Sungei Asap, at the base of Gunung Dulit, Kapit Division, Sarawak. The species is illustrated for the first time.

**Key words.** - *Lamprolepis vyneri*, redescription, Scincidae, Sarawak, Borneo.

### Introduction

The genus *Lamprolepis* Fitzinger, 1843, which was revived from the synonymy of *Dasia* Gray (1829), by Greer (1970) contains four nominal species of arboreal skinks. Two of these are endemic to Borneo (*L. nieuwenhuisii* and *L. vyneri*), a third (*L. leucosticta*) to Java (Manthey and Grossmann, 1997:263) and the fourth (*L. smaragdina*) is widespread in the Philippines, Sulawesi, Lesser Sundas, the Republic of Belau, the Carolines, New Guinea, the Solomons and Santa Cruz Islands (Brown and Alcala, 1980:76-79; Greer, 1970). The first two species are arguably the least well known of all Bornean lizards. *L. nieuwenhuisii* (Lidth de Jeude, 1905) was described from "Long Blou" (= Long Blu or Bloéoe, 00° 43' N; 114° 25' E), on the upper reaches of Sungei Mahakam, Kalimantan Tengah Province, Indonesia; RMNH 4455, holotype). It has subsequently been collected from isolated localities in northern Borneo, including Nanga Tekalit Camp on Sungei Mengiong, Kapit Division (reported as *Dasia vyneri* by Lloyd et al., 1968, based on FMNH 138542; 147562); and Pangkalan Lobang at Niah National Park, Miri Division (FMNH 131528), both in Sarawak State; and Kiau, Gunung Kinabalu National Park, Ranau District (MCZ 43494; BMNH 1929.12.22.96 and ZRC 2.1595); and Mahunbayon, Gunung Kinabalu National Park, Ranau District (MCZ 43495), both in Sabah State, East Malaysia.

*Lamprolepis vyneri* (Shelford, 1905) is more poorly known. Named for Charles Vyner Brooke (1874-1963), the Rajah Muda of Sarawak at the time of description of the species, and subsequently, the Third Rajah of Sarawak between 1917-1946, it is only known from the holotype, BMNH 1946.8.15.56 (ex-BMNH 1909.8.18.2), from "Mount Balineau, Muka district, Sarawak" (= Gunung Balingan, 01° 25' N; 111° 28' E,

Sibul Division, East Malaysia), according to the original description. However, in the records of the Sarawak Museum (Anon., 1903), the type locality is given as "Mt. Balingean" (in Muka District, Sibul Division, Sarawak). Lidth de Jeude (1905) questionably assigned to this species a specimen from the upper reaches of Sungei Mahakam (00° 30' S; 117° 15' E), Kalimantan Timur Province, which apparently differed from Shelford's (1905) species in some trivial details of squamation and body proportions. The location of this specimen is unknown, but was examined by De Rooij (1915), who allocated it to the present species. This species has never been illustrated.

A second specimen (ZRC 2.5513; Figs. 1-2) of *Lamprolepis vyneri* is reported here from Bukit Belian (03° 08' 34.4" N; 113° 55' 45.5" E), near the Kayan settlement of Kelep, at Sungei Asap, situated at the base of Gunung Dulit, Kapit District, Sarawak. It was collected dead on 6 November 2001 from a logging road.

### Material and Methods

The specimen was photographed upon collection, fixed in neutral buffered formalin and subsequently transferred to 70% ethanol, within a week of collection. The following measurements were taken with Mitutoyo™ dial caliper (to the nearest 0.1 mm): snout-vent length (SVL; from tip of snout to vent), tail length (TL; from vent to end of unregenerated tail; tip missing), tail width (TW; measured at base of tail); head length (HL; distance between posterior edge of last supralabial and snout-tip), head width (HW; measured at angle of jaws), head depth (HD; maximum height of head, from occiput to throat), ear length (EL; greater ear length); eye diameter (ED; greatest diameter of orbit), eye to nostril distance (E-N; distance between anteriormost point of eyes and nostrils), eye to snout distance (E-S; distance