

# A significant range extension for the Kinabalu Parachute Gecko, *Ptychozoon rhacophorus* (Boulenger, 1899) (Squamata: Gekkonidae) and a new state record from Sarawak, northwestern Borneo

Pui Yong Min<sup>1</sup> and Indraneil Das<sup>2</sup>

The genus *Ptychozoon* comprises arboreal geckos that are distributed over much of southeast Asia, primarily in moist tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests (Brown, 1999; Brown et al. 1997). At present, seven species are recognized under the genus: *Ptychozoon kuhli* Stejneger, 1902; *P. horsfieldii* (Gray, 1827); *P. lionotum* Annandale, 1905; *P. intermedium* Taylor, 1915; *P. rhacophorus* (Boulenger, 1899); *P. trinotaterra* Brown, 1999, and *P. nicobarensis* Das and Vijayakumar, 2009. Of these, three are confirmed as occurring in Borneo (Das, 2010)- *P. kuhli*, *P. horsfieldii* and *P. rhacophorus* (a fourth- *P. lionotum* has been reported from this island by Dring 1979 and Shinokawa et al., 2002, but these reports lack vouchered specimens and are consequently unconfirmed). Only *P. rhacophorus* is endemic to Borneo, and is the sole species from montane regions (Das, 2004).

The Kinabalu parachute gecko, *Ptychozoon rhacophorus*, was described from “Kadamaian River, Kina Balu, 2100 feet, North Borneo” (= Sungai Kadamaian, 640 m, 06° 22'N; 116° 26'E, Gunung Kinabalu National Park, Kota Belud District, Sabah, East Malaysia), holotype BMNH 1946.8.25.97, by Boulenger (1899). It has been recorded from Gunung Kinabalu National Park Headquarters, Ranau District (Malkmus et al., 2002, based on Sabah Park Zoological Museum specimens, SP 01120; 06008; 06071; see Das and Vijayakumar, 2009). This species apparently has a limited distribution range within the island (Fig. 1). Herein, we provide a new range extension, and the first record of *P. rhacophorus* from Sarawak state,

northwestern Borneo, as well as a first description of coloration in life.

During a field expedition on May 16, 2011 to Gunung Penrissen, Padawan (northwestern Borneo; 01.12°N, 110.21°E; 1,230 masl; Fig. 1), Sarawak state, East Malaysia, two gecko eggs was collected from the forest floor. The eggs were deposited as a near spherical pair, the hard shelled eggs fused to each other, and attached to the surface of a dry leaf. The eggs, that measured 10.0 x 10.8 mm and 9.99 x 10.3 mm, produced hatchlings 30.6 mm (SVL of both) and 20.0 and 21.4 mm (tail length) on 17 May 2011. Identification is based on the presence of the following combination of characters: sharp tapering tail; terminal tail-flap absent; spinose tubercles on dorsum; dorsum lacking dark bands; supranasals not in contact; absence of cutaneous expansion on sides of head (Fig. 2).



**Figure 1.** Localities from where *Ptychozoon rhacophorus* have been reported (•) and the new record for the state of Sarawak, Malaysia, Borneo (•)

Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation  
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300, Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia

<sup>1</sup>pui8783ibec@gmail.com, <sup>2</sup>idas@ibec.unimas.my