
A new species of *Cnemaspis* (Sauria: Gekkonidae) from Assam, north-eastern India

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Abstract

A new species of *Cnemaspis* (Sauria: Gekkonidae) is reported from the Mayeng Reserve Forest, Kamrup District, Assam, north-eastern India. The species is considered morphologically similar to south Asian species of the genus, rather than to those of south-east Asia, and can be diagnosed from all described congeners using the following combination of characters: snout-vent length 28.0 mm; canthal ridge absent; no ridges of tubercles along mandible or in nape region; supranasals separated by a single scale; nasals in narrow contact with supralabial I. Three postnasals bound nasal; postmentals separated by one scale; chin shields not separated from infralabials by enlarged scales; no decrease in dorsal scale size posterior to thorax; ventral scales increase in size from chin to gular, pectoral and abdominal regions. Scales on dorsum at mid-body much smaller than those of ventrum at same level; scales on vertebral region not reduced, lacking a spinous process; no enlarged tubercles on dorsum; spine-like tubercles on flanks; pectoral and abdominal scales smooth, imbricate, not distinctly elongated; no preanal or femoral pores; no preanal groove; no enlarged series of subtibial scales; 2–5 greatly enlarged basal scapulars; tail segmented, with enlarged flattened scales forming whorls; ventral surface of tail with a median, continuous series of enlarged scales, supralabials (to mid-orbit position) 8–9; infralabials 7; interorbital scale rows (at midpoint of orbit) 5; mid-ventral scale rows to lowest row of tubercles 24–26.

Key words: *Cnemaspis* new species, *Cnemaspis assamensis*, systematics, Assam, India.

Introduction

The frontier Indian state of Assam, that lies at the political contact of China, India and Myanmar, is one of the most biodiverse regions in Asia. Indeed, the Eastern Himalayas hotspot (sensu Myers, 1988) straddles the state, making it an important contributor to the overall high richness figures given for the biota of India.

Although it encompasses almost the whole of the floodplain of the Brahmaputra River, Assam also includes a large number of hill ranges, such as the Karbi, Cachar and Mishmi Hills, and parts of the northern slopes of the Garo and Khasi Hills. Extremes of temperature and high precipitation (exceeding 2,000 mm/yr, and including some of the world's wettest regions) characterise the state. A general