

TWO NEW SPECIES OF *DIBAMUS* (SQUAMATA: DIBAMIDAE) FROM BORNEO

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ABSTRACT. – Two new species of *Dibamus* are described from Sabah, east Malaysia (Borneo), one each from the highlands of Mendolong, Sipitang District, and the other from the lowland rainforests of Danum Valley, Lahad Datu District. The new highland species from Mendolong, *Dibamus ingeri*, differs from all congeneric species in the following combination of characters: SVL 96.0 mm; body relatively stout, body width 4.7% SVL, postoculars two; midbody scale rows 20; subcaudals 36; frontonasal divided; incomplete rostral sutures, preanal pores absent; nuchal collar starts from back of head, and relatively short tail (14.8% SVL). The new lowland species from Danum Valley, *Dibamus vorisi*, differs from all congeneric species in the following combination of characters: SVL to 90.1 mm; body relatively slender, body width 3.9% SVL, postoculars two; midbody scale rows 20; subcaudals 33 in a male, 11 in a female; frontonasal entire; nasal suture complete; labial suture absent; preanal pores absent; nuchal collar absent; pale body band situated in the anterior half of body, and a relatively short tail (14.2% SVL in a male; 6.1% SVL in a female).

KEY WORDS. – *Dibamus ingeri*, *D. vorisi*, Dibamidae, systematics, new species, Sabah, Malaysia, Borneo.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Dibamus* at present contains 15 nominal species (see Darevsky, 1992; Das, 1996; Das & Yaakob, 2003; Honda et al., 1997; Ineich, 1999; Honda et al., 2001), in addition to one unnamed population, from Pulau Tioman, Pahang State (Lim & Lim, 1999). This is a substantial increase since the review by Greer (1985), when nine nominal species were recognised. An important aspect of the biology of *Dibamus* that affects our understanding of their systematics is their rarity in collections, most species being known from a single or a few specimens (except arguably the widespread *D. leucurus*). Many species show inexplicably disjunct populations, which call for systematic comparisons to verify whether they are indeed conspecific. If they are conspecific, it would reinforce the importance of field collections of these poorly known lizards in understanding geographical variation and other aspects of their population biology.

Dibamus alfredi was described by Taylor (1962) from “Na Pradoo, Pattani, Thailand at base of Bukit Besar”, in extreme southern Thailand, and subsequently reported from the island of Nias, off the western coast of Sumatra (Greer, 1985) and

from Danum Valley in Sabah State, East Malaysia, Borneo (Tan, 1993). A specimen reported by Boulenger’s (1912) from Bukit Besar and recently assigned to *D. alfredi* by Underwood & Lee (2000). Field collections undertaken by the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, in collaboration with the Sabah Parks resulted in the collection of two distinctive species of *Dibamus* from Borneo, one from montane forest (Mendolong, Sipitang District), the other from a lowland rainforest situation (Danum Valley, Lahad Datu District), both in the state of Sabah, East Malaysia, in Borneo. The second species has been referred to *D. alfredi* in the checklist of lizards of Sabah by Tan (1993). It is the purpose of this paper to diagnose these two species and describe them as new to science.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The type series of the two new species were examined over 10 years after collection. Scute nomenclature follows Greer (1985) and scale counts and external observations of morphology were made using an Olympus SZX9 stereo dissecting microscope. The following measurements were taken with Mitutoyo™ dial caliper (to the nearest 0.1 mm);