

Rediscovery and Redescription of *Tropidophorus micropus* van Lidth de Jeude, 1905 (Squamata: Sauria: Scincidae) from Sarawak, East Malaysia (Borneo)

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Abstract *Tropidophorus micropus* van Lidth de Jeude, 1905, described from the upper Mahakkam River, Kalimantan, Indonesia, is here redescribed, based on new material from upper Baleh, Sarawak, East Malaysia (Borneo), collected after over 100 years. The new locality is ca. 94 km to the north of the type locality, and comprises a new national record.

Keywords *Tropidophorus micropus*, rediscovery, Scincidae, Malaysia, Borneo

Tropidophorus micropus van Lidth de Jeude, 1905 was described from a unique specimen (RMNH 4452, presumed to be an adult male, based on swollen tail base), collected from “Long Bloe Upper Mahakkam” (= Long Blu, also spelt Long Bloéoe, 00.71667°N; 114.2500°E; on the upper reaches of Sungei Mahakam, Kalimantan Timur Propinsi, Indonesia, on the island of Borneo). No images were provided in the original description, and the holotype is illustrated here (Figure 1). Subsequent authors (e.g., de Rooij, 1915) referred to the species, but apparently no further specimens have been collected. The recent records of the species by Stuebing *et al.* (1999) and Das (2004) are based on misidentified specimens.

In May 2015, two specimens of *Tropidophorus* were collected during an expedition to the headwaters of Sungei Baleh, central Sarawak, that we allocate to this nominal species. This constitutes the rediscovery of the poorly known species, as well as the first confirmed record for Sarawak and Malaysia.

We provide an expanded description of these specimens, including, for the first time, a description of its colouration as well as images.

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The specimens were collected on 19 May 2015, photographed before euthanasia, fixed in formalin, and subsequently washed in water and transferred to 70% ethanol about a week after collection. Specimens were deposited at the Museum of the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. The following measurements were taken with Mitutoyo™ dial vernier callipers (to the nearest 0.1 mm) approximately two months after collection: snout-vent length (SVL, from snout tip to cloaca); tail length (TaL, from cloaca to tail tip). Scallation: nuchals (enlarged scales behind parietals); paravertebral scales (number of dorsal scales from posterior edge of parietals to a point above vent); ventrals in transverse rows (number of scales from first gular to precloacal scales), and scale rows at position of 10th subcaudal on tail including subcaudal.

Material Museum of the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, UNIMAS P1168, from a small stream located at the First Count Logging Camp (01.35.644°N; 113.47.377°E), Putai, upper Baleh, Kapit district, Sarawak, East Malaysia (Borneo), altitude 117 m ASL (datum WGS84), collected by Yong Min Pui, 19 May 2015. Adult females (Figures 2–3).

Redescription Relatively small, SVL 35.2 and 38.2 mm, TaL 43.1 and 46.8 mm; snout acute, not projected beyond lower jaws; nostril laterally oriented, oval,