



A new species of *Eutropis* (Squamata: Scincidae) from Sri Lanka

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Abstract

A new species of lygosomine scincid lizard of the genus *Eutropis* is described from the dry and intermediate zones of the lowlands (0–190 m asl) of Sri Lanka. *Eutropis tammanna* sp. nov. is compared with congeners from Sri Lanka and those from southern Peninsular India, and is diagnosable by molecular data and by the following combination of morphological characters: body size small, up to 52.3 mm; transparent window-like disk absent on lower eyelids; prefrontals in broad contact; a single pair of nuchals; postnasal absent; ear opening larger than adjacent scales; dorsal scales with 6–7 keels; midbody scale rows 28–29; paravertebral scale rows 37–40; ventral scales 41–48; lamellae under fourth toe 15–16; dark labial bars present in both sexes, which are more distinct in males; dark postocular stripe absent; males brown on dorsum, with dark flanks speckled with cream; females similar to males, the pattern less contrasting, lacking paired series of black markings, pale vertebral stripes or dark longitudinal stripes on dorsum. In addition, the rostral, labials, and gular region of presumed breeding males are bright flame scarlet.

Key words: *Eutropis tammanna* sp. n., Scincidae, systematics, morphology, Sri Lanka, Bayesian, ND2, DNA, SH test

Introduction

The genus *Mabuya* Fitzinger, 1826 (sensu lato), contains a number of medium-sized to large (SVL to 137 mm), terrestrial scincids, with generally robust habitus, snout obtusely pointed, palatines in contact, nostril situated in a single nasal, eyelids moveable, lower eyelid of scaly or with a transparent window, supranasals present, dorsal scales keeled, limbs well-developed and pentadactyle, tympanum deeply sunk, pterygoids separated, pterygoid teeth present, presacral vertebrae 26, and preanal scales not enlarged (de Rooij, 1915: 158; Smith, 1935: 258–259; Taylor, 1963; Horton, 1973a; 1973b; Greer, 1977; Mausfeld et al., 2002). As traditionally defined, the genus contains 115 nominal species, from both the Old and New World tropics and subtropics (Horton, 1973b; Bauer and Günther, 1992; Mausfeld et al., 2000; Mausfeld and Böhme, 2002; Mausfeld and Schmitz, 2003).

Honda et al. (1999) demonstrated that the genus *Mabuya*, as understood at that time, was paraphyletic (see also Mausfeld and Vrcibradic, 2002; Honda et al., 2003). Mausfeld et al. (2002) argued for the partition of *Mabuya* into four genera (each representing long-separated evolutionary lineages of monophyletic radiations in South American, Asian, Afro-Madagasy and Cape Verdian groups). The Asian species were allocated to *Eutropis* Fitzinger, 1843 (type species: *Gongylus sebae* Duméril and Bibron, 1839, at present synonymous with *Eutropis multifasciata* [Kuhl, 1820]). Recent authors have been divided in the acceptance of this new