THE ORIGINAL DESCRIPTIONS AND FIGURES OF SRI LANKAN GEKKONID LIZARDS (SQUAMATA: GEKKONIDAE) OF THE 18TH, 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES

Sectional Editor: Richard Wahlgren

Submitted: 30 October 2009, Accepted: 22 November 2009

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Abstract

Forty-two species/subspecies belonging to eight genera of geckos, family Gekkonidae, are recognized from Sri Lanka. Twenty of these were described in the period from Linnaeus's 10th edition of *Systema Naturae* 1758 to 1953. We provide the original text of the descriptions, images of the type specimens, and translations to English of eight descriptions that were written in Dutch, French, German, and Latin.

Key words: Type specimen, Taxonomy, English translation, Sri Lanka

Introduction

Sri Lanka is together with the Western Ghats of Southern India a biodiversity hotspot and the region is rich in herpetofaunal assemblages (Bossuyt *et al.*, 2004; Meegaskumbura *et al.*, 2002; Myers *et al.*, 2000). Forty-two species belonging to eight genera of geckos, family Gekkonidae, have been recognized from Sri Lanka and 31 (71%) of them

are endemic to the island (Batuwita & Bahir, 2005; Bauer *et al.*, 2007; Deraniyagala, 1953; Manamendra-Arachchi *et al.*, 2007; Wickramasinghe & Munindradasa, 2007). The genus *Cnemaspis* Strauch, 1887 is represented by 21 species (Bauer *et al.*, 2007; Deraniyagala, 1953; Manamendra-Arachchi *et al.*, 2007;