



THE ORIGINAL DESCRIPTIONS AND FIGURES OF SRI LANKAN AGAMID LIZARDS (SQUAMATA: AGAMIDAE) OF THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES

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Abstract

Eighteen species of agamid lizards are recognized from Sri Lanka, representing one subfamily: Draconinae. Thirteen of these species were described in the period 1758-1887. The early descriptions of agamid lizards were very brief and often written in languages other than English. Original descriptions and images of type specimens are provided for *Calotes calotes* (Linnaeus, 1758), *C. versicolor* (Daudin, 1802), *C. nigrilabris* Peters, 1860, *C. liocephalus* Günther, 1872, *C. liolepis* Boulenger, 1885, *C. ceylonensis* Müller, 1887, *Otocryptis wiegmanni* Wagler, 1830, *Ceratophora stoddartii* Gray, 1835, *C. tennentii* Günther, 1861, *C. aspera* Günther, 1864, *Lyriocephalus scutatus* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Cophotis ceylanica* Peters, 1861, and *Sitana ponticeriana* Cuvier, 1829. Translations to English are provided of original descriptions that were published in Latin, French, and German.

Key words: Original description, type specimen, Agamidae, Taxonomy, English translation, Sri Lanka