



Short Communication

First record of Allapalli forest skink, *Eutropis allapallensis* (Schmidt, 1926) from West Bengal State, India

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Abstract

The distribution range of the Allapalli Forest Skink (*Eutropis allapallensis*) which was previously known from Peninsular and Central India up to Odisha is being extended herein to West Bengal on the basis of a specimen present in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India at Kolkata. The diagnostic characters and scale counts of the specimen are being given for clear identification of the species.

Keywords: Allapalli Forest Skink, New Record, West Bengal, Diagnostic Features

The Allapalli Forest Skink, (*Eutropis allapallensis*) was described from Allapalli Forest Range near Chanda in Madhya Pradesh. It was subsequently reported from Maharashtra, Gujarat (Vyas, 2004), Goa (Sharma, 1976), Karnataka (Ganesh *et al*, 2013), Kerala (Thomas, Easa and Jahas, 1998), Tamil Nadu (Ganesh and Arumugam, 2015), Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. We recently located a specimen of this species (ZSI 25948) collected from Kirnahr, Birbhum district, West Bengal by Barnali Mitra on 07.09.1994 and lodged in the National Zoological Collections of the Zoological Survey of India at Kolkata. This constitutes the first record of the species from West Bengal State. Some diagnostic characters of this specimen are mentioned below:

Body slender and elongated, dorsal and lateral scales with five keels, the central three are large and the two on the sides are smaller. Supra-nasals and pre-frontals are separated. Parietals separated completely by small inter-parietal. Fronto-parietals large and united. No lobules in ear-hole. Lower eyelid scaly.

Body is elongated with well-developed limbs which touch each other. Ventral scales smooth with keel-like

markings. Rostral visible from above. Fronto-nasal wider than long. Frontal is not large and smaller than fronto-parietal and inter-parietal together. One pair of nuchal. Four supra-oculars, the second is the largest. Anterior loreal is higher than the posterior. Single pre-ocular present. Five supra-ciliaries, the second is the largest. Six supra-labials, fifth are the largest and situated below the eye. Ear-hole round and very deeply sunk. Some very small lobules in ear-hole.



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Six infra-labials. Mental is thrice wider than long. Mental in contact with first and second infra-labials. Post-mental wider than long. First and second chin shields are divided by a single large ventral scale row. Third chin shields divided by five rows of ventral scales. Fourth toe is very much longer than the third toe.

Snout-vent length: 31.2 mm.

Para-vertebrals: 42.

Ventrals: 41.

Mid-body scale rows: 26.

Lamellae under fourth toe: 16.

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