

Brook's house geckos at Admiralty Park

Subjects: Brook's house gecko, *Hemidactylus brookii* (Reptilia: Sauria: Gekkonidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Admiralty Park; 4 February 2016; evening.

Habitat: Urban parkland. On artificial structures on a grass slope. There were coconut mats around the structures presumably to reduce soil erosion.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: Three adults of around 10 cm total length (one of which is shown in photograph attached), and a smaller (presumed) sub-adult were observed. All were on artificial structures within a small area.

Remarks: *Hemidactylus brookii* is distinguished from other house dwelling geckos in Singapore by the rows of granular scales and tubercles on the dorsum and the large spiny tubercles on the dorsal surface of the tail (Das, 2010: 220). The species has been reported from Singapore in 1864 where it was said to be common in houses (Grismer, 2011: 478). However, there were apparently no records since then, and its presence in Singapore has been considered doubtful (Sworder, 1925: 64 as *Hemidactylus brooki*). In the region around Singapore, the Brook's house gecko is known from Borneo and Peninsular Malaysia as far south as Pulau Pangkor (Grismer, 2011: 478). Considering that this species is a human commensal, it is most likely to be introduced in Singapore. The geckos in the present observation could have recently arrived on the coconut mats on the grass slope.

References:

- Das, I., 2010. *A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia*. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd. 376 pp.
- Grismer, L. L., 2011. *Lizards of Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, and their Adjacent Archipelagos. Their Description, Distribution, and Natural History*. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 728 pp.
- Sworder, G. H., 1925. The lizards of Singapore Island. *The Singapore Naturalist*. 5: 61-68.



Dorsal view of a *Hemidactylus brookii* at Admiralty Park. Photograph by David Groenewoud

Contributors: David **Groenewoud** & Law Ing Sind

Contact address: davidgroenewoud@hotmail.com (Groenewoud)