

Amphibians and Reptiles from the South Natuna Islands

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In a recent paper¹ I have recorded a collection made in the North Natuna Islands. The material for the present note was collected on the islands of the South Natuna group by Mr. P. M. de Fontaine and a party of collectors from the Raffles Museum in August, 1931.

The Natuna Islands, composed of two groups, lie between the Malay Peninsula and Borneo but nearer to the latter. The southern islands are much nearer to Borneo than the northern group and are separated from it by a considerably shallower sea.

Of six species of Amphibians, two are new to the Natuna Islands, the remaining four having been found previously only in the northern group.

Five species of lizards out of a total of nine species are recorded for the first time from these islands, and two out of five species of snakes.

The material bears out the contention that the reptiles of island habitat tend to large size and melanism.

AMPHIBIA

Rana macrodon Kuhl.

Sirhassen Id., 12 examples.

A large specimen has a well-defined orange stripe from snout to vent. The rest are smaller, the young with the cross-bars on the lower jaw and the marbling of the throat very distinct.

Previously known from the North Natunas.

Rana kuhli Schlg.

Sirhassen Id., 6.

Not previously recorded from the Natuna Ids.

Rana chalconota (Schlg.).

Sirhassen Id., 1.

Not previously recorded from the Natuna Ids.

Rana erythraea (Schlg.).

Sirhassen Id., 7; Panjang Id., 2.

1. Bull. Raffles Mus., 5, 1931, pp. 46-48.

Rhacophorus macrotis (Blgr.).

Sirhassen Id., 2.

Previously known from the North Natuna Ids.

Bufo melanostictus Schn.

Sirhassen Id., 1.

A very large specimen. Previously known from the North Natuna Ids.

REPTILIA

Sauria

Peropus mutilatus Wieg.

Sirhassen Id., 1.

Not previously known from the Natuna Ids.

Gekko gekko (L.).

Subi Kechil Id., 1.

The first labial is narrowly in contact with the nostril. Examination of material in the Raffles Museum shows this to be a common occurrence, and this character cannot therefore be used in separating this species and *G. stentor*.

Not previously recorded from the Natuna Ids.

Gekko stentor (Cantor).

Sirhassen Id., 1 ad., 2 juv.

One young specimen has regular black markings on the head and back; the tail, which has been amputated and regrown, is minutely granulated above and much depressed, somewhat resembling that of *Gehyra*.

The markings of the other immature specimen are brown, the tail complete but less rounded and more sharply tapering than in the adult.

In all three specimens the granules are not conspicuously regular, although arranged in rows. Two specimens from the Malay Peninsula bear granules very regularly arranged, each granule white shaded anteriorly with dark. The granules of the Natuna specimens vary greatly in the extent and position of the pigmentation, and are generally darker.

Not previously known from the Natuna Ids.

Ptychozoon kuhli Stejn.

Berian Id., 1.

Very few enlarged tubercles on back.

Not previously recorded from the Natuna Ids.

Draco volans L.

Panjang Id., 1.

Calotes cristatellus (Kuhl).

Subi Kechil Id., 1.

Mabuya multifasciata (Kuhl).

Sirhassen Id., 6; Panjang Id., 1.

The Sirhassen specimens nearly approach the known limit of size. Two have the red stripe on the shoulder.

Lygosoma olivaceum (Gray).

Sirhassen Id., 1.

Lygosoma atrocostatum (Less.).

Sirhassen Id., 2.

Not previously recorded from the Natuna Ids.

Serpentes

Dendrelaphis caudolineatus (Gray).

Berian Id., 1; Sirhassen Id., 1.

Cerberus rynchops (Schn.).

Sirhassen Id., 2.

Not previously recorded from the Natuna Ids.

Passerita prasina (Boie).

Sirhassen Id., 1; Panjang Id., 1.

The specimen from Sirhassen has a total length of 1915 mm.; tail, 680 mm.; ventrals, 225; sub-caudals, 184.

This appears to be the largest specimen of the species yet recorded.

Aplopeltura boa (Boie).

Sirhassen Id., 1.

Very dark in colour.

Not previously recorded from the Natuna Ids.

Trimeresurus wagleri (Boie).

Panjang Id., 1 ad., 1 juv.