Comments on “An updated and annotated list of lizards (Reptilia: Sauria) based on a review of distribution records and checklist of Indian reptiles by P.D. Venugopal”

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Venugopal (2010a) made a noteworthy attempt in updating the list of Indian lizards and also provide annotations on the present taxonomic status of the species. In the first attempt, Venugopal (2010a) failed to include several gekkonid lizards which he rectified by adding two species Geckoeila albofasciatus and Eublepharis fuscus updating the list of Indian lizards from 199 to 201 (Venugopal 2010b).

Apart from the above mentioned species, Venugopal (2010a & 2010b) failed to mention two gekkonid lizards occurring in India. Giri et al. (2009) described Cnemaspis kolhapurensis from Kolhapur District, Maharashtra. Venugopal (2010a & 2010b) perhaps was unaware of the description of C. kolhapurensis. Another gekkonid lizard Tropiocolotes persicus euphorbiacola Minton, Anderson & Anderson 1970 was reported by Agarwal (2009) for the first time from India from the state of Rajasthan in Nabh Dongar, Jaisalmer District.

Zug et al. (2007) suggested H. mahendrai Shukla, 1983 to be considered a synonym of H. brookii. But this has not been formally done as the type specimens are lost or have not been deposited in a recognized museum. Considering the fact that H. brookii is paraphyletic as demonstrated by Carranza & Arnold (2005) and supported by Mahony (2009), we propose to retain it until further specimens from the type locality are examined.

Recently, Javed et al. (2009) reported H. subtriedrus from Araku Valley, Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh and presented proofs on its distinctness from H. triedrus. The population referred to as ‘H. subtriedrus’ by Javed et al. (2009) and Sanyal & Dasgupta (1990) from Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in fact belong to H. maculatus complex rendering the systematic status of H. subtriedrus unresolved (Javed et al. in press). Thus I propose H. subtriedrus to be listed as a species until it is formally synonymized.

Considering the above additions and comments the present number of Indian lizards would be 205 and not 201 as updated by Venugopal (2010b).

REFERENCES


