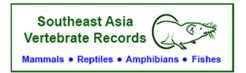
SEAVR 2018: 006-007 ISSN: 2424-8525

Date of publication: 15 January 2018 Hosted online by ecologyasia.com



Tail bifurcation in *Eutropis indeprensa* on Palawan Island, Philippines

Emerson Y. SY & Alexander C. DALABAJAN emersonsy@gmail.com (Sy), adalabajan@gmail.com (Dalabajan)

Observer: Alexander C. Dalabajan. Photograph by: Alexander C. Dalabajan. Subject identified by: Emerson Y. Sy.

Location: Barangay Villa Libertad, Municipality of El Nido, Palawan Province, Palawan Island, Philippines.

(11° 12.337'N, 119° 25.030'E; WGS 84).

Elevation: 6 metres

Habitat: Remnant, relatively intact lowland forest, 250 metres from a beach.

Date and time: 03 March 2016, noon.

Identity of subject: Red-lipped Sun Skink, Eutropis indeprensa (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae).

Description of record: An adult *Eutropis indeprensa* with a bifurcated tail was observed while it was foraging on a wooden walkway within a minimally disturbed forest area near a beach. The anterior portion of the tail appears to be intact and measures around 15 mm in length, while the regenerated posterior portion comprises an 'upper tail' of 27 mm and a 'lower tail' of 31 mm. (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. © Alexander C. Dalabajan

Remarks: *Eutropis indeprensa* is a moderate-sized (snout-vent length = 45.6–66.6 mm), diurnal, ground-dwelling skink occurring in the Philippines (Calauit, Caluya, Camiguin, Cebu, Leyte, Mindanao, Mindoro, Negros, Palawan, Panay and Samar) and northern Borneo (Brown and Alcala, 1980; Gaulke, 1999; Gaulke, 2011). *Eutropis indeprensa* is a species complex with highly conserved (i.e. unchanged) external morphology (Barley et al., 2013).

Among lizards, tail autotomy is a well-documented, anti-predator behaviour which may also be influenced by habitat/microhabitat and foraging behaviour (Bateman and Fleming, 2008). Lizards capable of tail regeneration following autotomy occasionally exhibit abnormal tail development. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of tail bifurcation for this species.

References:

Barley, A., White, J., Diesmos, A.C., & Brown, R.M. (2013). The challenge of species delimitation at the extremes: diversification without morphological change in Philippine sun skinks. *Evolution* 67(12): 3556–3572.

Bateman, P.W. & Fleming, P.A. (2009). To cut a long tail short: a review of lizard caudal autotomy studies carried out over the last 20 years. *Journal of Zoology* 277: 1–14.

Brown, W. C. & Alcala, A.C. (1980). *Philippine lizards of the family Scincidae*. Silliman University Press, Dumaguete City, Philippines. 264 pp.

Gaulke, M. (1999). Die Herpetofauna von Calauit Island (Calaamiaanes-Inseln, Provinz Palawan, Philippinen) (Amphibia et Reptilia). Faunistische Abhandlungen 21: 273-282.

Gaulke, M. (2011). The herpetofauna of Panay Island, Philippines. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 390 pp.