

FIRST REPORT ON THE HERPETOFAUNA OF PULAU AUR, JOHOR, WEST MALAYSIA

L. Lee Grismer¹, Norsham S. Yaakob², Lim Boo Liat³,
Tzi Ming Leong⁴, Indraneil Das⁵, Roland A. Sosa⁶, Jesse L. Grismer¹,
K. M. Crane¹, R. E. Diaz¹, S. V. Figueroa¹, C. A. Ledbetter¹,
S. C. Newbold¹, S. R. Newbold¹, C. P. Patel¹, J. Castro¹, R. A. Escobar III¹,
S. Guerrero¹, J. W. Pinedo¹, J. D. Trujillo¹ and Hinrich Kaiser¹

¹Department of Biology, La Sierra University, Riverside, California 92515-8247 U.S.A.
Email: lgrismer@lasierra.edu

²Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Kepong, 52109 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Email: norsham@beos.trim.gov.my

³Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Km 10 Jalan Cheras, 50664, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

⁴Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Singapore 119260.
Email: scip0132@nus.edu.sg

⁵Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak,
94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia.
Email: idas@ibec.unimas.my

⁶Department of Natural Sciences, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California 92350, U.S.A.
Email: rolasosa@lasierra.edu

ABSTRACT.— With the exception of Tweedie's (1983) account of *Calamaria lovii*, published accounts on the herpetofauna of Pulau Aur, located 63 km off the south-east coast of peninsular Malaysia in the South China Sea did not exist prior to this report. The only species known from the island were based on the museum records of *Limnonectes blythii*, *Mabuya multifasciata*, *Bronchocela cristatella*, *Gehyra mutilata*, *Varanus nebulosus* and *Ahaetulla prasina* deposited in the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research. A short expedition to the island on 15-16 July 2001 yielded an additional 12 species, comprising 10 lizards and two snakes: *Limnonectes blythii*; *Bronchocela cristatella*; *Cnemaspis* cf. *Nigridia*; *Cosymbotus platyurus*; *Cyrtodactylus consobrinus*; *Gehyra mutilata*; *Gekko monarchus*; *Hemidactylus frenatus*; *Dasia olivacea*; *Emoia atrocostata*; *Lygosoma bowringii*; *Mabuya multifasciata*; *Sphenomorphus scotophilus*; *Varanus nebulosus*; *Varanus salvator*; *Ramphotyphlops* cf. *braminus*; *Calamaria lovii* and *Macropisthodon flaviceps*.

KEY WORDS.— Pulau Aur, Seribuat Archipelago, Malaysia, herpetofauna,

INTRODUCTION

Pulau Aur is a small island (5.5 x 3 km) lying 63 km off the south-eastern coast of peninsular Malaysia. It is the most easterly island of the Malay Peninsula and the most isolated within the Seribuat Archipelago and lies within the State of Johor. The interior of Pulau Aur has limited permanent running water and is characterized by large granitic outcrops that make the terrain steep, rugged and difficult to negotiate. Two peaks form the dominant topographical features at each end of the island with the southernmost,

Bukit Makum, reaching 522 m. Much of the original forest cover along the low-lying coastal periphery of Pulau Aur has been cut and replanted with coconut palms. Dense primary forest with closed canopy, however, remains on some of the steeper slopes and at higher elevations.

Other than a notation by Tweedie (1983) of *Calamaria lovii*, nothing has been published on the herpetofauna of Pulau Aur. To our knowledge the only herpetofaunal records from the island are museum specimens of *Limnonectes*