

Confirmation of *Hemidactylus brookii* Gray, 1845 from Borneo

Fig. 1. Habitat of *Hemidactylus brookii* in Loagan Bunut National Park, Sarawak, Malaysia (Borneo).



Indraneil Das and Jeet Sukumaran¹

Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation,
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak,
94300, Kota Samarahan,
Sarawak, Malaysia.

¹ Present address:
24 Persiaran Wangsa Baiduri 8,
47500 Subang Jaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Hemidactylus brookii was described by Gray (1845) from collections made by British naval officer, Captain Edward Belcher (1799–1877) and the Earl of Derby, presumably the 14th Earl, Edward Geoffrey Smith Stanley (1799–1868). Collection locations are recorded as “Borneo” and “Australia” respectively. The three syntypes (BMNH 1947.3.6.47–49) have the type locality apparently restricted inde-

pendently to “Borneo” by Smith, 1935: 89 and Pope, 1935: 460. The species is named for Sir James Brooke (1803–1868), who was known as the “First Rajah of Sarawak” (1842–1867). He was formerly Governor of Sarawak from 1841, and Governor of Labuan and Consul-General to the Sultan of Brunei from 1846.

Hemidactylus brookii is widespread in the Old World tropics. Its distribution extends from tropical Africa to southern China and south-east Asia, including Myanmar, Thailand, the Malay Peninsula (although the Singapore record was doubted by Denzer and Manthey, 1991), Borneo and the Philippines (Alcala, 1986: 64; Bauer et al., 2002; Brown and Alcala, 1978: 32–34; Denzer and Manthey, 1991; Smith, 1935: 91; Zhao and Adler, 1993: 183). This species has been erroneously (see Bauer and Henle, 1994: 226) recorded from Australia by several authors, including Gray (1845; 1867), Günther (1875) and Zietz (1920).

The records of the species from Borneo, the type locality, have been ambiguous. Bartlett (1895, also cited by de Rooij, 1915:33) recorded