

An assessment of vouchered records and field observations of the rare anguid, *Dopasia buettikoferi* (Lidth de Jeude, 1905) in Borneo

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<http://zoobank.org/0D6D7623-102C-4971-8700-4A594C451D87>

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Academic editor: Günter Gollmann ♦ Received 13 February 2020 ♦ Accepted 14 March 2020 ♦ Published 7 May 2020

Abstract

We report recent observations, two new locality records and an updated overview of the distribution of *Dopasia buettikoferi* (Lidth de Jeude, 1905) from Borneo, as well as photographic documentation of this species showing colouration and patterns in living individuals and the holotype. This note represents the first complete compilation of distributional knowledge of this rarely-encountered member of the family Anguillidae.

Key Words

Anguillidae, legless lizards, Malaysia, Indonesia, coloration, diversity, rare species

Introduction

The genus *Dopasia* Gray, 1853 (formerly allocated to the genus *Ophisaurus*) is one of the least known amongst the herpetofauna of south-east Asia (Brygoo 1987; Lin et al. 2003; Nguyen et al. 2011; Lavin and Girman 2019). According to Uetz et al. (2019), the genus consists of seven species, distributed from northern India, through southeast Asia to Indonesia (Sumatra) and Malaysia (Borneo): *D. buettikoferi* (Lidth de Jeude, 1905), *D. gracilis* (Gray, 1845), *D. hainanensis* (Yang, 1984), *D. harti* (Boulenger, 1899), *D. ludovici* (Mocquard, 1905), *D. sokolovi* (Darevsky & Nguyen, 1983) and *D. wegneri* (Mertens, 1959). The majority of *Dopasia* species remain poorly studied (see main reviews of Brygoo 1987; Nguyen et al. 2011) and the most recent phylogeny of the genus does not contain all nominal species (Lavin and Girman 2019).

Dopasia buettikoferi (Lidth de Jeude, 1905), commonly known as the Bornean Glass lizard, is endemic to Borneo (Das 2004; Nguyen et al. 2011; Uetz et al. 2019). Due to its presumed rarity and occupancy of many inaccessible areas, it is rarely encountered. Together with *D. wegneri* from Sumatra, this species is amongst the most rarely seen members of the family. The original description was presented by Lidth de Jeude (1905), who described this species based on a single specimen obtained during the Dutch scientific expeditions to central Borneo (Fig. 1), organised by the “Maatschappij tot bevordering van het natuurkundig onderzoek der Nederlandsche Kolonien”, between 1893–94, 1896–97 and 1898–1900 (see Büttikofer 1897). The holotype (RMNH 4450; Fig. 1A–E) is deposited at the Naturalis Biodiversity Center (formerly, Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie), Leiden, The Netherlands. The type locality given in the original description is “Mount Liang Koeboeng” (= Bukit Liang