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A New Gekkonid from the Malay Peninsula

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Gonatodes flavolineatus, sp. nov.

The type and only known specimen of this new species of *Gonatodes* was found at the Gap, below Fraser's Hill, on the Pahang-Selangor boundary, at an altitude of approximately 2,700 feet. It has been deposited in the reference collection of the British Museum.

The specimen is immature, and measures 67 mm. from the nose to the tip of the tail. It has the characters which determine the genus *Gonatodes*—namely the digits are not dilated and the pupils are round.

Its nearest relative is *G. affinis* from which it is easily differentiated by its colour and markings, and by the shape and arrangement of the mental and post-mental shields. The new species has a broad yellow band down the back, extending from the base of the head and increasing in width as it approaches the lumbar region and then narrowing on the tail. This yellow band fades beyond the fragile segment of the tail, but is still traceable on the proximal part of the segments. The general colour on either side of the yellow band is a dark mottled brown. On the shoulders are two oval cream coloured spots situated midway between the central line of the back and the origin of the fore limb; one of these oval spots is in line with the front margin of the forelimb and the other is a little behind the fore limb. There is a pair of keeled tubercles arising on each of these spots. On the side between the limbs are four vertical narrow, broken up, yellowish bands. The digits are irregularly barred black and yellow; and there are very irregular black bars on the limbs. The under parts are cinereous.

The back is covered with fine scales, and arising at intervals from among them are keeled tubercles arranged in lines along the body. Similarly the tail is clothed dorsally and ventrally with small scales, and has lines of keeled tubercles; there are two subcaudal lines of these and the tubercles are larger than these of the lateral and dorsal lines.

The mental shield of all the recorded species of *Gonatodes* has been described as subtriangular. Figure I, drawn from a specimen of *G. affinis*, shows the characteristic shape of the mental shield of the majority of the *Gonatodes*. Figure II is

drawn from the type of the new species. It will be seen that the mental shield may be described as irregular sided pentagonal. The two post mental scales of the three species (*kendalli*, *siamensis*, and *affinis*) recorded from Malaya lie at an angle of about 40° to the midline of the body, whereas in the new species this angle is 60°.

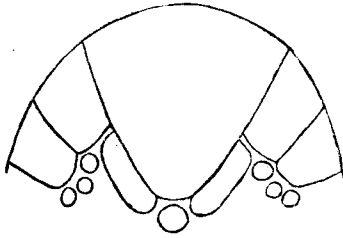


Fig. I.

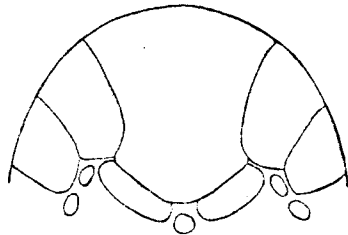


Fig. II.

Fig. 1. Mental and post-mental scales of (I) *Gonatodes affinis*, (II) *G. flavolineatus*.

The type specimen is immature, and it might be argued that the shape of the mental scale alters as the lizard grows. I have therefore examined all the specimens of the Malayan species of *Gonatodes* in the reference collection of the Raffles Museum. In none of them does it change materially with the increase in length, and it seems reasonable to assume that this general proposition also applies to the new species.

The amended key for the four species of *Gonatodes* recorded from the Malay Peninsula will be:—

I Base of raised portion of digits with transverse plates beneath; tail with median series of enlarged scales below—

A strong canthal ridge; tail with a median row of pointed semi-erect scales below; male without pores length from snout to vent 80 mm.

kendalli

Canthal ridge indistinct or absent; tail with a median series of enlarged, pointed, not erect, scales below; male with 2 to 8 preanal pores; sometimes absent; length from snout to vent 42 mm.

siamensis

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II Base of raised portion of digits with irregular small scales; tail without enlarged scales below.

Mental shield subtriangular . . . *affinis*
Mental shield irregular pentagonal *flavolineatus*

The broad yellow band obviously suggests the name *flavolineatus*.

LITERATURE

- BOULENGER, G. A. 1912. 'A Vertebrate Fauna of the Malay Peninsula: Reptilia and Batrachia'.
SMITH, MALCOLM A. 1930. Bulletin of the Raffles Museum. No. 3 April, 1930.