

Rediscovery and redescription of the Malagasy dwarf gecko *Lygodactylus klemmeri*

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Abstract

Lygodactylus klemmeri Pasteur, 1964 is a small diurnal gekkonid lizard described on the basis of a single male specimen from Antsingy forest in western Madagascar, deposited in the Paris museum. This specimen could not be retrieved during recent years in the Paris collection and might be lost. Hence, the only existing information on this gecko is the original description and some subsequent remarks on the holotype by G. Pasteur. We here report on new material of *L. klemmeri* from the collection of the University of Antananarivo, Madagascar, and provide a comparison to published morphological data of the holotype.

Key words: Squamata, Gekkonidae, *Lygodactylus*, *Lygodactylus klemmeri*, Madagascar, taxonomy

Introduction

Lygodactylus are dwarf lizards from the southern hemisphere, occurring with highest diversity in subsaharan Africa and Madagascar, and with two species in South America (sometimes considered as own genus, *Vanzoia*). In addition, the genus *Microscalabotes* is closely related to *Lygodactylus* (Puente *et al.* 2005). The systematics and phylogenetic relationships of these diurnal geckos are still largely uncharted.

Lygodactylus klemmeri Pasteur 1964, has been described on the basis of an adult male specimen from Antsingy forest in western Madagascar. No further data on this species has become available since, except some morphological comparisons based on the holotype (Pasteur 1965), except some morphological comparisons based on the holotype (Pasteur 1965), and a short mention in a species inventory list (Emanueli & Jesu 1995). Since 1992 we have been unable to retrieve the holotype in the collection of the Paris museum, where it had originally been deposited, and it might be lost (G. Pasteur, pers. comm. in 2001). The species has been assigned to the *Lygodactylus verticillatus* group within the occidental