

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

RECENT RECORD OF THE ROCK GECKO, *HEMIDACTYLUS MACULATUS* DUMERIL AND BIBRON (REPTILIA : GEKKONIDAE), FROM LONAVALA, PUNE.

Recently we had the opportunity to pick up a large gekkonid lizard, slightly injured by a vehicle, on Tungarli road, Lonavala, on 21 September 1986. The lizard was found in a moribund state. At the time of capture, the yellowish-orange and yellowish-brown bands, with rows of dark spots on the back and tail were conspicuous. The underside was dirty white in colour. The digits, dilated at the base, the divided subdigital lamellae, and the clawed toes place the gecko in the genus *Hemidactylus*. Detailed observations of the gecko revealed following morphological characters :

Sex.....	Male
Total length.....	236 mm
Snout-vent length.....	104 mm
Tail.....	132 mm
Eye to eye.....	12 mm
Ext. nare to eye.....	10 mm
Eye to ear.....	9 mm
Eye diameter.....	8.5 mm
Ear opening(oval).....	5 mm
Lamellae under inner toe.....	9
Lamellae under 4 th toe.....	11
Femoral pores on each side of the thigh.....	19

DESCRIPTION

Head large with convex small scales on the snout; hinder part of the head with tubercles along with small granular scales. Upper labials 12 and 10 lower labials. Entire back covered with about 22 longitudinal rows of large, trihedral tubercles intermixed with small juxtaposed scales. Belly covered with small imbricate scales. Digits free and dilated at the base, with divided, perfectly straight, transverse lamellae. Tail oval in section, depressed, with 6 longitudinal rows of large keeled tubercles and with alternate broad orange and yellowish-brown bands with dark lining (see Figs. 1-4).

On the basis of the above characters the lizard was determined as *Hemidactylus maculatus* following the key by Smith (1935 : 83). As far as the colour is concerned,

soon after death and now in preserved state (in alcohol), the lizard appears uniformly grey with dark spots, matching the description given by Daniel (1983). This species was recently reported from Pune and Bombay area by Murthy (1985) and prior to that by Tiwari and Sharma (1970).

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