

A new species of dwarf gecko of the genus *Cnemaspis* Strauch, 1887 (Reptilia: Sauria: Gekkonidae) from the Nicobar archipelago with an expanded description of *Cnemaspis andersonii* (Annandale 1905) of the Andaman Islands

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(Received: January 27, 2020; Revised: March 31, 2020; Accepted: April 05, 2020)

ABSTRACT

A new species of gekkonid lizard of the genus *Cnemaspis* is described from the southern group of Nicobar Islands. It is distinguished from the Andaman endemic *C. andersonii* and the species of the adjacent Mentawai archipelago by: small body size (27.64 - 31.08 mm SVL); presence of four enlarged conical tubercles on the flanks; 2 post-mentals separated from each other by a single scale; presence of 2-3 internasals; presence of 6-7 supralabials; 8 infralabials; 16-18 subdigital lamellae under toe IV; smooth pectoral, abdominal and femoral scales; presence of 3 femoral pores on each thigh; absence of precloacal pores and irregularly shaped, small sized subcaudal scales. The description of *C. andersonii*, endemic to the Andaman archipelago is expanded based on new material along with several new, specific distribution records that are mapped. Conservation status of these geckos is discussed.

Key words: Gekkonid, *Cnemaspis*, Nicobar Islands, endemic species

