

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES FROM MOZAMBIQUE

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Mozambique harbours a highly diverse herpetofauna, with more than 280 reptile and 82 amphibian species known from this country (Schneider *et al.* 2005; Ohler & Frétey 2015). Nevertheless, the herpetofauna of Mozambique remains poorly documented compared to other areas of southern Africa (Pietersen 2014). Although the region south of the Zambezi River is routinely included in works summarizing the herpetofauna of southern Africa (e.g., Branch 1998; du Preez & Carruthers 2009), published point locality records are relatively rare. Records north of the Zambezi are especially scarce and have focused on areas of higher elevation (Branch 2005; Bayliss *et al.* 2010) or coastal forests (Pascal *et al.* 2011). Additional scattered records from both northern and southern Mozambique are vouchered by museum specimens (D.G. Broadley, in litt.), but the majority of these have never been published in either faunal papers or taxonomic revisions.

During July and August 2011, Daniel M. Portik conducted short opportunistic herpetological surveys across several provinces of Mozambique, including Maputo, Inhambane, Zambézia, and Niassa. Specimens were hand-captured during

diurnal and nocturnal visual surveys. Time limitations precluded the use of pitfall traps or other standardised collecting techniques. Voucher specimens and tissue samples are deposited in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (MVZ) at the University of California, Berkeley, with a subset of voucher specimens deposited at the Natural History Museum of Maputo. The primary survey sites of the trip were located on the Lichinga Plateau and Gurué Highlands, specifically Serra Jaci massif and Mt. Namuli, respectively. Results from these two major collecting sites have already been published (Portik *et al.* 2013a,b; Loader *et al.* 2015), but several records from Maputo, Inhambane, Zambézia, and Niassa Provinces have not yet been reported. In light of the paucity of published records for even common species in Mozambique, we here summarize these data. Additionally, for each locality and each species, we report the distance to the nearest previously published locality. We did not comment on Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) records that have not been otherwise cited in the literature because these records may include taxon identity errors as well as georeferencing errors, and have been vetted neither by us nor by the peer-review process.

NIASSA PROVINCE

Cuamba Town, Hotel Vision 2000 and Public Gardens (-14° 48' 0.5", 36° 32' 27.1", 586 m).

FAMILY: GEKKONIDAE

Chondrodactylus turneri
(Gray 1864)

Turner's Thick-toed Gecko

Turner's Thick-toed Gecko (Fig. 1), MVZ 265919–25, nearest record is 19 km NE, from Mitacué Mountain near Nova Freixo (Blake 1965).

Hemidactylus platycephalus

Peters 1854

Tree Gecko

Tree Gecko, MVZ 265960–68, located 34 km W of Lurio, the nearest published locality of this species (Broadley 1977).

Lygodactylus capensis

(Smith 1849)

Cape Dwarf Gecko

Cape Dwarf Gecko, MVZ 266121–28, closest published records are 45 km E, near Mutali (Blake 1965).

FAMILY: SCINCIDAE

Trachylepis striata
(Peters 1844)

African Striped Skink

African Striped Skink, MVZ 266184–87, closest records are 90 km SE, from the Mt. Namuli Grasslands (Portik *et al.* 2013a).

ZAMBÉZIA PROVINCE

Mocuba Town, Pensão Cruzeiro Parking Lot (-16° 50' 18.2", 36° 59' 9.8", 88 m).

FAMILY: GEKKONIDAE

Hemidactylus mabouia
(Moreau de Jonnés 1818)

House Gecko

House Gecko, MVZ 265929–30, closest record is 103 km NW, near Liciro (Broadley 1977).

Gorongosa Town, Gas Station (-18° 40' 10.4", 34° 4' 42.1", 291 m).



Figure 1. Turner's Thick-toed Gecko (*Chondrodactylus turneri*) from Cuamba Town, Hotel Vision 2000, Niassa Province, Mozambique.

Lygodactylus capensis

(Smith 1849)

Cape Dwarf Gecko

Cape Dwarf Gecko, MVZ 266119, closest record is 16 km N, at the base of Gorongosa Mountain (Blake 1965).

Gorongosa Town, Hotel Azul (-18° 40' 57.7", 34° 4' 14.2", 365 m).

Hemidactylus mabouia

(Moreau de Jonnés 1818)

House Gecko

House Gecko, MVZ 265943–46, closest record is 17 km N, from Gorongosa Mountain (Broadley 1977)

Lygodactylus capensis

(Smith 1849)

Cape Dwarf Gecko

Cape Dwarf Gecko, MVZ 266135–36, closest record is 16 km N, at the base of Gorongosa Mountain (Blake 1965).

FAMILY: BUFONIDAE***Sclerophrys gutturalis***

(Power 1927)

African Common Toad

African Common Toad, MVZ 265867, previously recorded 17 km N, from Gorongosa Mountain, by Poynton & Broadley (1988).

Road to Gorongosa NP, (-18° 57' 45.3", 34° 10' 11.0", 118 m).

FAMILY: VARANIDAE***Varanus albigularis***

Daudin 1802

White-throated Monitor

White-throated Monitor, MVZ 266230, located 34 km NNW of Vila Machado, the closest previously published locality for this species (Bayless 2002).

INHAMBANE PROVINCE

Vilanculos, Varanda Resort (-22° 0' 19.6", 35° 19' 23.5", 10 m).

FAMILY: GEKKONIDAE***Hemidactylus platycephalus***

Peters 1854

Tree Gecko

Tree Gecko, MVZ 265957–59, these are the first records of *H. platycephalus* from Vilanculos, despite a previous survey of amphibians and reptiles from this region (Jacobsen 2010). However, records from Nhamanene Lake (Broadley 1977), San Sebastian Peninsula (Jacobsen 2010), and the Bazaruto Archipelago (Broadley 1990, 1992) are close (50 km SSE, 19 km SE, and 16 km NE from the new records, respectively) to Vilanculos.

Lygodactylus capensis

(Smith 1849)

Cape Dwarf Gecko

Cape Dwarf Gecko, MVZ 266115–18; these are the first published records of *L. capensis* from Vilanculos, despite a previous survey of amphibians and reptiles from this

region (Jacobsen 2010). However, records 16 km NE, from the Bazaruto Archipelago (Broadley 1990, 1992), and 19 km SE, from San Sebastian Peninsula (Jacobsen 2010) are close to Vilanculos.

FAMILY: SCINCIDAE***Panaspis wahlbergii***

(Smith 1849)

Wahlberg's Snake-eyed Skink

Wahlberg's Snake-eyed Skink, MVZ 266147, the nearest records are 16 km NE, from the Bazaruto Archipelago (Broadley 1990, 1992), and 19 km SE, from San Sebastian Peninsula (Jacobsen 2010); the taxonomic assignment of this individual was supported by phylogenetic analysis of DNA data (Medina *et al.*, 2016).

Trachylepis striata

(Peters 1844)

African Striped Mabuya

African Striped Mabuya, MVZ 266181–83, closest previous record is 20 km to the SE, from San Sebastian Peninsula, (Jacobsen 2010).

FAMILY: BREVICIPITIDAE***Breviceps cf. adspersus***

Peters 1882

Common Rain Frog

Common Rain Frog (Fig. 2), MVZ 265908, genetic data support the assignment of this individual to the *Breviceps adspersus/mossambicus* group, but assignment at the specific level is not yet clear (S. V. Nielsen, pers. comm.); closest previous record



Figure 2. Common Rain Frog (*Breviceps cf. adspersus*) from Vilanculos, Varanda Resort, Inhambane Province, Mozambique, on 15/8/2011.

is 18 km W, from Pambarra (Poynton & Broadley 1985).

Maxixe, Parque de campismo (-23° 51' 49.7", 35° 21' 1.0", 10 m).

FAMILY: GEKKONIDAE

Hemidactylus platycephalus

Peters 1854

Tree Gecko

Tree Gecko, MVZ 265947-56, 265968), the nearest published locality is 74 km N, at Rio Das Pedras (Broadley 1977); Maxixe is the southernmost record for the species.

Lygodactylus capensis

(Smith 1849)

Cape Dwarf Gecko

Cape Dwarf Gecko, MVZ 266113-14; the nearest published locality is 191 km to the North, on the San Sebastian Peninsula (Jacobsen 2010).

MAPUTO PROVINCE

Ponta do Ouro, Casa de Sequeira (-26° 50' 52.0", 32° 53' 2.0", 25 m).

FAMILY: AGAMIDAE

Acanthocercus atricollis

(Smith 1849)

Black-necked Agama

Black-necked Agama, MVZ 265804-05, nearest Mozambique record is 100 km N, at Delagoa [Maputo] Bay (Fitzsimons 1943).

FAMILY: CHAMAELEONIDAE

Chamaeleo dilepis

Leach 1819

Flapneck Chameleon

Flapneck Chameleon, MVZ 265911, nearest Mozambique record is 100 km N, Maputo (Fitzsimons 1943).

FAMILY: GEKKONIDAE

Hemidactylus mabouia

(Moreau de Jonnés 1818)

House Gecko

House Gecko, MVZ 265926-28, nearest Mozambique record is 88 km N, from Inhaca Island (Broadley 1977).

FAMILY: SCINCIDAE

Trachylepis striata

Peters 1844

African Striped Skink

African Striped Skink, MVZ 266180, closest Mozambique record is 100 km to the N at Maputo (Broadley 1962).

FAMILY: BUFONIDAE

Sclerophrys gutturalis

(Power 1927)

African Common Toad

African Common Toad, MVZ 265837-38, previously recorded from Ponta do Ouro by Poynton & Broadley (1985).

FAMILY: BREVICIPITIDAE

Breviceps cf. adspersus

Peters 1882

Common Rain Frog

Common Rain Frog, MVZ 265909, genetic data support the assignment of this individual to the *Breviceps adspersus/mossambicus* group, but assignment at the specific level is not yet clear (S. V. Nielsen, pers. comm.); previously recorded from Ponta do Ouro by Poynton & Broadley (1985). All of these species are also common immediately adjacent to Ponta do Ouro in Maputoland, KwaZulu Natal (Poynton 1980; Bruton & Haacke 1980; Bates *et al.* 2014).

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