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## ON THE HOLOTYPE OF *Cnemaspis podihuna* DERANIYAGALA, 1944

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A. A. Thasun Amarasinghe<sup>1</sup> and Aaron M. Bauer<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Taprobanica Nature Conservation Society, 146, Kendalanda, Homagama, Sri Lanka  
E-mail: aathasun@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup>Department of Biology, Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, Pennsylvania 19085-1699, USA.  
E-mail: aaron.bauer@villanova.edu

Sri Lankan members of the gecko genus *Cnemaspis* Strauch, 1887 have recently been reviewed and re-described (Wickramasinghe & Munindradasa 2007; Manamendra-Arachchi *et al.* 2007). The endemic species *Cnemaspis podihuna* was first described by P. E. P. Deraniyagala in 1944 from Lahugala-Maha Oya area in Eastern Province based on five specimens (holotype and four paratypes). Deraniyagala (1944) clearly stated “Type - An adult male (fig. I) with the distal half of the tail broken off. Length.....; tail (incomplete) 18 mm. The specimen is in the Colombo Museum.” He also mentioned “Paratypes - An adult female measuring 25 mm. from snout tip to cloaca (tail missing), a half grown specimen, and two young ones.” The original description includes a figure of *C. podihuna* (see Amarasinghe *et al.*, 2009 for the original figure and original description); this is almost certainly intended to be of the type based on the fact that the figure shows precloacal and femoral pores, a feature restricted to mature male *Cnemaspis*, and on the basis that the holotype was

the only adult male noted by Deraniyagala. Deraniyagala (1953) subsequently provided the same information again in his book-length treatment of the lizards of Sri Lanka.

After 54 years with no further explicit literature reports of *C. podihuna*, Wickramasinghe (2000) rediscovered the species at Koslanda in the Badulla District, noting five specimens (NMSL RG 21). Wickramasinghe & Munindradasa (2007) collected four additional specimens (NMSL20061001, NMSL20061002, NMSL20061003, NMSL20061004) from Lahugala near Siyabalanduwa (06° 52' 55.9" N, 81° 42' 30.2" E; alt. 387 m).

Kandamby (1997) mentioned that the type of *C. podihuna* was present as an uncatalogued specimen at the National Museum of Colombo, Sri Lanka. However, according to Wickramasinghe & Munindradasa (2007) “The voucher specimen deposited in National Museum Sri Lanka (NMSL) in place of the misplaced type specimen of *C.*