



---

## AN ABERRANT SPECIMEN OF *Calotes grandisquamis* GÜNTHER, 1875 (REPTILIA: AGAMIDAE) WITH COMMENTS ON ITS ALTITUDINAL DISTRIBUTION

---

Sectional Editor: Aaron Bauer

Submitted: 25 July 2009, Accepted: 30 September 2009

S. R. Chandramouli

Department of Zoology, Division of Wildlife Biology, A.V.C. College, Mannampandal, Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu, India; Email: findthesnakeman@gmail.com

### Abstract

An adult female *Calotes grandisquamis* with unusual colouration was recorded from a low elevation plantation site near the foothills of the Ponmudi Hills, Western Ghats, which proves to be the lowest altitude from which this species has ever been recorded.

**Keywords:** Abnormal coloration, Ponmudi Hills, Western Ghats

### Introduction

Abnormal coloration in Indian reptiles has been reported earlier in several taxa (Kuch, 1991; Wall, 1908; Whitaker, 1968). *Calotes grandisquamis* Günther, 1875 is an agamid lizard endemic to Western Ghats (Das, 2002; Murthy, 1985; Smith, 1935), which was originally described by Günther from the foot of the Canoot Ghat (= near Mananntoddy, Bramagherry Hills, fide Smith, 1935) i.e., now Mananthavady (11° 48' N, 76° 00' E; 740 m asl.) in the Brahmagiri Hills of Wynaad District, Kerala State, and is known to be distributed in the Brahmagiri, Anamalais, Ponmudi and Tirunelveli hills (Ishwar *et al.*, 2003; Murthy, 1985; 1990; Smith, 1935). This report of

an aberrant individual is based on a live adult female recorded from the foothills of the Ponmudi hill range, Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala State, India.

### Observation

A live adult female was sighted on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 09.11 hrs on a rubber tree at a height of about 1.85 m from the ground in a private plantation bordering a road in Vithura town, Thiruvananthapuram District (8° 40' 13" N, 77° 05' 32" E; 107 m asl.), a locality amidst human habitations. Dorsum bright green, with three distinct, white transverse bars on body, each