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## NOTES ON *EX-SITU* INCUBATION AND HATCHLINGS OF *Eutropis carinata* (SCHNEIDER, 1801) (REPTILIA: SCINCIDAE) FROM SRI LANKA

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### Abstract

*Eutropis carinata* is widely distributed skink in Sri Lanka. This observation describes *ex-situ* incubation and hatching of this species at Colombo district in Sri Lanka. In total, 25 eggs with two adults of *E. carinata* were located from a termite mound while some villagers were trying to kill a cobra (*Naja naja*) living in the mound. Of these skink eggs, 20 were successfully incubated. The incubation period was 30 days from the date eggs were collected. The average incubation temperature varied from 26–28°C. Mean egg length was 15.6 mm and mean egg width 10.4 mm. Mean hatchling SVL was 28.5 mm and mean TL is 41.3 mm. The mean weight of hatchlings was ~3 g and the mean total length is 69.8 mm. After about five days, hatchlings were released at the original place of the clutch.

**Key Words:** *Eutropis carinata*, *ex-situ* incubation, egg hatching, conservation, Sri Lanka

### Introduction

The genus *Eutropis* in Sri Lanka consists of seven species: *E. beddomei*, *E. bibronii*, *E. carinata*, *E. floweri*, *E. macularia*, *E. madaraszi* and *E. tammanna* (Deraniyagala, 1953; Das & de Silva, 2005; Das *et al.*, 2008). The Common Skink, *Eutropis carinata* (Schneider, 1801) is known locally in Sinhala as “Sulaba Garandi Hikanala”. This species is the largest skink in Sri Lanka (de Silva, 1996, 2006). According to the published

literature, *E. carinata* has been widely distributed in Sri Lanka. The habitats are characterized as open areas, forests with close canopies, home gardens as well as plantations in wet and dry zones below 1,000 m a.s.l. (Das & de Silva, 2005). Adults of *E. carinata* measured from snout to vent of 140< mm, a head length of 25< mm, a tail length of 200< mm and an axilla to groin length of 100< mm (Deraniyagala, 1953). The present communication