

## Natural History Notes

**CALOTES VERSICOLOR** (Asian garden lizard): ALBINISM. Albinism has been observed in all vertebrate groups. It occurs through a reduction or absence of melanin pigment, due to genetic mutations, diet, age, disease or injury (Sage, 1962; Owen & Shimmings, 1992; Summers, 2009). Albinism has been reported in lizards of the Anguidae, Sphaerodactylidae, Varanidae and Lacertidae (Robert et al., 1965; Delaugerre, 1981; Eidenmullser, 2003; Spadola & DiToro, 2007) but there have been no previous reports on albinism in Agamid lizards.

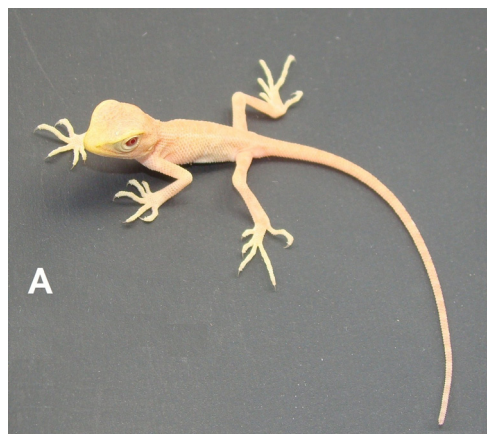
This note reports albinism in a laboratory-born hatchling of the Asian garden lizard *Calotes versicolor* (Agamidae) in Dharwad, Karnataka, India. The lizard's body, skin and eyes appeared pink. The neonate hatched on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2012 from laboratory-laid eggs (n = 13) of a female collected from the surrounding areas of Dharwad city (15° 17' N and 75° 3' E) during the second week of June 2012. Figure 1A & B show the albino hatchling alongside a normally-coloured sibling (Fig. 1C). The snout-vent length of the newly-hatched lizard was 24.53 mm; tail length 50.87 mm; weight 469 mg. The sex was recorded as male by extrusion of the hemipenes as described by Harlow (1996). The hatchling survived for only 12 days and died of unknown causes.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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**Figure 1.** Albinism in hatchling of Asian garden lizard *C. versicolor*: (A) albino hatchling; (B) albino hatchling in comparison with (C) normal hatchling from the same clutch.

occurrence and performance of leucistic barnacle geese, *Branta leucopsis*. *Ibis* 134: 22-26.

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