**Cnemaspis mysoriensis** (Mysore dwarf gecko): **REPRODUCTION.** *Cnemaspis* or Oriental dwarf geckos are a diverse group of primarily diurnal geckos distributed in Africa, south and Southeast Asia, with 51 currently recognized species (Bauer, 2002; Das, 2005; Das & Grismer, 2003; Das & Leong, 2004; Kluge, 2001). Of these, 20 and 19 species are distributed in south and Southeast Asia respectively. However, our knowledge of ecology and life history characteristics of these geckos is meagre at best (Werner & Chou, 2002). Here, I report observations on communal egg-laying, incubation period and reproduction in *C. mysoriensis* (Smith, 1935) from Bangalore, south India.

Communal egg-laying has been recorded in few species of the genus *Cnemaspis* (Bhupathy & Nikon, 2002; Biswas & Ishwar, in press) but not in *C. mysoriensis*. On 6th August 2005 two sites containing egg clutches of *C. mysoriensis* were located in a degraded scrub habitat in the outskirts of Bangalore city (13°04′14″N, 077°35′13″E; WGS84; elevation 914 m). The sites were located at a height of ca. 12 ft from the ground under a bridge over which a railway track passed. The walls under the bridge were damp, covered in places with growths of moss, and with water leaking from the roof. The sites were placed ca. 20 cm apart on the wall close to where it met the ceiling. Each site was spread over an area of approximately 6 cm x 2 cm. One site contained at least 30 hatched egg shells from previously deposited clutches, while the other contained about 18 and 2 unhatched eggs. Three other non-communal sites, two containing a single clutch of paired unhatched eggs and another with a clutch of one egg were also located under the bridge. The egg shells were counted using binoculars and are minimum estimates as it was not possible to reach the egg-laying sites to make accurate counts. Fragmental remains of more recently deposited eggs were found on older ones that may have resulted in counts being underestimated.

*Cnemaspis mysoriensis* individuals were found on the same wall and the eggs were definitely of this species, as no other geckos occurring in Bangalore lay eggs of such size and *C. mysoriensis* is the only *Cnemaspis* recorded from in and around the city. *Hemidactylus brooki*, a common nocturnal gecko, was also found on the same wall and seems to use it as a retreat for resting during the day.

A female *C. mysoriensis* was caught on the afternoon of 8th March 2005 in a building in Bangalore (13°02′11″N, 077°35′24″E; datum: WGS84; elev. 924 m), India. The individual was not noticed to be gravid, but laid two eggs in the cloth bag in which it was kept, between 10th March and 11th March 2005. The eggs were white in colour, almost round in shape with a flattened side
attached to the cloth and measured 6.28 mm and 5.76 mm in length. The eggs were maintained in the same bag at a site 1 km away from the collection locality and were monitored every 2 to 3 days thereafter. Between 28th April 2005 and 2nd May 2005 a hatching emerged from the larger of the two eggs. The hatching had a snout to vent length of 13.58 mm (tail length 12.68 mm) and was released the next day in the same building after photographing. The other egg failed to hatch and was opened on 29th July 2005. While breaking open the egg under a binocular stereo microscope, a crack was observed on the egg shell. Inside was found a desiccated juvenile that seemed to have stopped developing at a very advanced stage. The above observation on the hatching of the intact egg suggests an incubation period of 49 to 53 days. Daily temperature in Bangalore during this period ranged between 36ºC and 18ºC. This seems to be the first report of incubation period for any of the south Asian species of *Cnemaspis*. However, more detailed observations on incubation time and ambient temperature in this and other species (after controlling for temperature, egg mass and probably body size) will shed further light on the ecology of their eggs. Incubation time is variable within the Gekkonidae but occupies around the middle of the time range recorded for squamate reptiles (Birchard & Marcellini, 1996).

Internal examination of the preserved female revealed two fully developed eggs (approximately of same size but without calcium egg shell deposition) suggesting that multiple clutching occurs in this species. Multiple clutching is useful to interpret communal egg-laying behaviour in *Cnemaspis* species (Bhupathy & Nikon, 2002; Biswas & Ishwar, *in press*) as it is currently unknown how many individuals contribute to such egg aggregations. Activity of these geckos throughout the year in Bangalore (pers. obs.) may also allow individuals of this species to reproduce more than once or through most of the year, although this evidently requires verification.

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