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Short Communication

FIRST RECORD OF THE CLOUDED GROUND GECKO, *GECKOELLA NEBULOSA* (BEDDOME, 1870) FROM JHARKHAND (ERSTWHILE BIHAR)

INTRODUCTION

While examining the collection of gekkonid lizards available in National Zoological Collection of the Zoological Survey of India, it was found that the lot contained a species of the genus *Geckoella*, which was later identified as that of *Geckoella nebulosa* (Beddome). Also our studies revealed that this solitary specimen of the species is the first authentic record from the State of Jharkhand, which formed till recently as an integral part of the State of Bihar.

The brief description of the species under report is as follows :

A terrestrial gecko, found hiding under stones during the day; head moderate; body cylindrical and stout, covered with enlarged tubercles above and imbricate scales below; tail short, tapering to point, swollen at base; dorsum grayish-brown with transversely arranged dark brown spots bordered by a

sinuous white line extended up to the tail. Total length 82 mm (Reg. No. ZSI 24528).

This specimen under discussion has been collected by Sri. S.S. Saha, ZSI, from Meghatuburu, Saranda Forest in the hilly region of West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.

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B.H.C.K. MURTHY

AND

GOURI DASGUPTA

*Zoological Survey of India,
Kolkata-700016*



Fig. 1 : *Geckoella nebulosa* (Beddome, 1870) ZSI. Reg. No. 25428



Fig. 2 : *Geckoella nebulosa* (Beddome, 1870) from Jharkhand (Erstwhile Bihar).