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SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

OBSERVATION ON THE BIFID TAIL IN A SPECIMEN OF *HEMIDACTYLUS BROOKI* GRAY

It is a well known fact that the tail of geckoes breaks off very easily but they have the power of reproducing a new one. The new tail is not a complete organ, the vertebrae are not reproduced but in their place, a non-segmented rod grows; new muscles are developed according to Smith (1935).

Hora (1926) reported a specimen of *Hemidactylus brooki* Gray with a triradiate tail. There was a normal median limb and two symmetrical short limbs. N Krishna Pillai (1955) recorded a bifurcated tail of *Hemidactylus brooki* Gray. The left limb of that tail was longer than the right abnormal one.

I have come across one specimen of *Hemidactylus brooki* Gray with a forked tail from Himachal Pradesh. The tail is normal. But one third of its anterior part is verticillate only and the rest are smooth. Only the distal end is froked. The forks are not symmetrical. The left limb is very small and is about one fifth of the length of right one. Dorsal scutes and ventral scales which are salient characters of the species, are present on the right limb. The left limb does not possess ventral plates. The external character of the right limb thus proves that the right limb is the original normal tail and the smaller left limb is the original normal tail and the smaller left is an abnormal one.

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