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A New Species of Gekko from Shikoku, Japan

With 2 Text-figures

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Through the courtesy of the Kagawa Laboratory attached to the Kagawa Prefectural Office, the author had an opportunity of examining the specimens of Gekko which had been obtained at Tawa, Nagao-machi, Okawa-gun, Kagawa Prefecture on December, 5, 1955. The species will be described in this paper as being new to science.

Gekko tawaensis n. sp. (Figs. 1, 2)

Type specimen: Female

Type locality: Tawa, Nagao-machi, Okawa-gun, Kagawa Prefecture, Shikoku, Japan, collected on December 5, 1955.

Description: Head somewhat large, triangular in outline, rostral squarish, about twice as wide as high, bounded above by two small internasals and two very minute scales between internasals; nostril surrounded by first supralabial, and small internasal; distance between nostril and eye nearly equal to the distance between eye and ear-opening; eye large, its diameter more than half the distance between eye and tip of snout; ear-opening small, somewhat slit-like; 13 upper labials; 15 lower labials; mental pentagonal, large, slightly larger than adjacent lower labials; whole upper surface with very minute scales; no tubercles; slight skin fold bearing slightly larger scales running from posterior end of eye to ear-opening and from anterior end of eye towards nostril; inner digit (first digit) with 10 lamellae, second with 12, third with 11, fourth with 9; arms somewhat slender and shorter, toes broader towards tip than at base and tip; ten to fourteen broad undivided lamellae on underside of toes; first and second

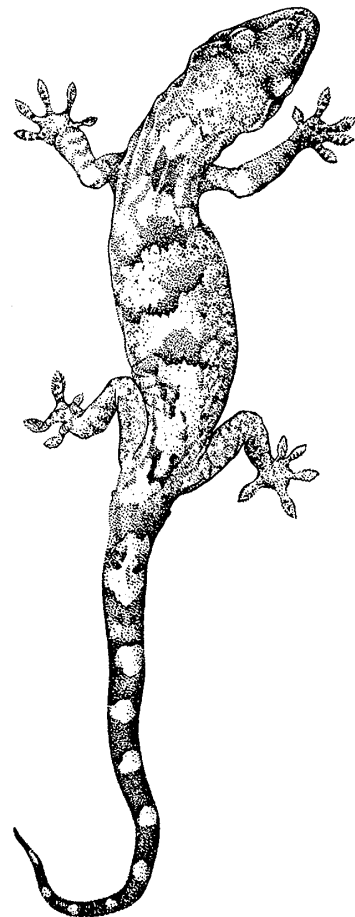


Fig. 1. *Gekko tawaensis* n. sp.
× 1.

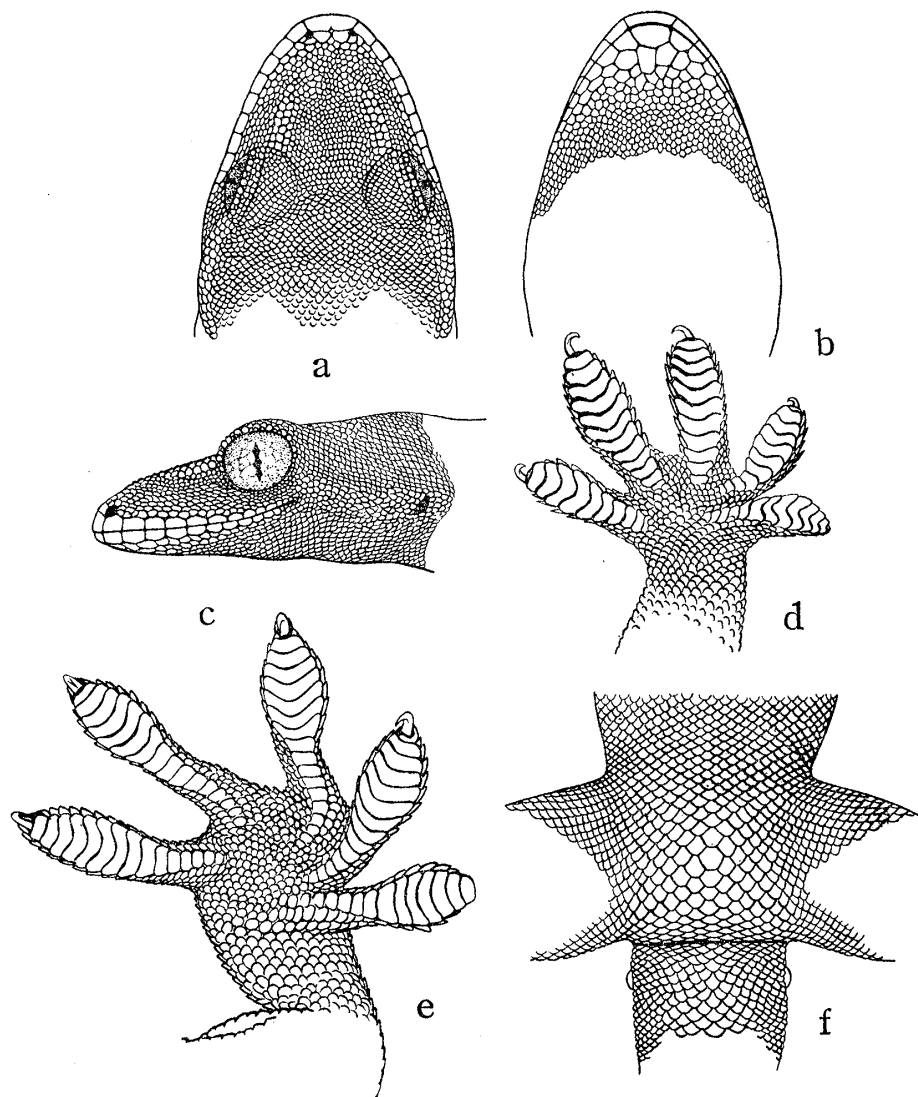


Fig. 2. *Gekko tawaensis* n. sp. from Tawa Nagao-machi, Okawa-gun, Kagawa Prefecture, Shikoku. a. Dorsal view of head $\times 2.5$ b. Ventral view of head $\times 2.5$ c. Lateral view of head $\times 2.5$ d. Underside of hand $\times 2.6$ e. Underside of foot $\times 2.6$ f. Underside of anal region $\times 2.6$

toes with 10; third and fourth toes with 12; fifth toe with 15; lower surface of body except throat, covered with somewhat larger intricate scales; tail gradually tapering, not swollen at base, pointed at end, one or two somewhat deep transverse grooves at anterior one-third of tail; upper surface of tail covered with scales, slightly larger than those of trunk; ventral surface with larger scales, with a median series of wide plates in posterior portion.

Measurements (in mm.): Total length 112, snout to vent 70, vent to tip of tail 42, snout to ear-opening 16. Greatest width of head 14.5. Length of fore-limb 21, hind limb 28.

Color in life: Dorsal side of trunk dark gray, with dark black irregular

transverse bands, belly with dark black spots; upperside of tail dark black, underside light grey with many ill-defined dark brown spots and gradually darker to black tip of tail.

Notes: The animals are found in the mountainous regions of the Asan mountain range, lying between Kagawa and Tokushima Prefectures. They are distributed also in Kamiyama, Mikimachi, Kida-gun and in Tsukuta-mura, Okawa-gun, Kagawa Prefecture. They inhabit rocky grounds, making groups of ten or more individuals. In summer, they are active, running about, hiding under stones and sometimes climbing trees. In winter, they are inactive and hibernate in the crevices of rocks. Native people consider them harmful because they sometimes bite severely.