

Commensal herpetofauna at Cat Ba Beach Resort, Cat Ba Island, Vietnam

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Observer: Nick Baker.

Photographs by: Nick Baker.

Subjects identified by: Nick Baker

Location: Cat Ba Beach Resort, Cat Ba Island, Hai Phong, Vietnam. (Lat 20° 43.197'N Long 107° 3.331'E)

Habitat: Limestone cliffs with low, secondary scrub forest, and gardens planted mainly with coconut palms and short grass (Fig. 1).

Date: 1-4 June 2015

Identity of subjects and descriptions of observation:

- 1) Asiatic Toad, *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* (Amphibia: Anura: Bufonidae),
4 seen at night on the ground, or perched less than a metre from the ground on rock outcrops, Fig. 2.
- 2) Tokay, *Gekko gecko* (Reptilia: Squamata: Gekkonidae)
1 heard at night, calling from low, secondary scrub forest behind the resort.
- 3) Palmated Gecko, *Gekko palmatus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Gekkonidae)
2 seen at night on rock outcrops with sparse vegetation, Fig. 3.
- 4) Garnot's House Gecko, *Hemidactylus garnotii* (Reptilia: Squamata: Gekkonidae)
At least 8 seen at night on rock outcrops and coconut palms, Fig. 4.
- 5) Long-tailed Sun Skink, *Eutropis longicaudata* (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae)
1 seen basking on a flat boulder at midday, Fig. 5.
- 6) Many-lined Sun Skink, *Eutropis multifasciata* (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae)
1 seen by day amongst leaf litter in secondary scrub, Fig. 6.
- 7) Oriental Whip Snake, *Ahaetulla prasina* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae)
1 seen by day active in gardens at edge of resort, close to secondary scrub, Figs. 7 & 8.

Remarks: Cat Ba Beach Resort lies 1 km southeast of Cat Ba Town. It is situated on flat land behind a sandy beach, enclosed by limestone promontories. These records were made either within the grounds of the resort, or in degraded, forest edge habitat at the boundary of the resort. The weather in early June 2015 was extremely humid, and very hot, with daytime temperature reaching 38 degrees centigrade. The 6 species of reptile listed here were all documented as being extant in the core zone of Cat Ba National Park on Cat Ba Island by Nguyen et al (2011).

Reference: Nguyen, T. Q., Stenke, R., Nguyen, H.X. & Ziegler, T. (2011). The terrestrial reptile fauna of the biosphere reserve Cat Ba Archipelago, Hai Phong, Vietnam. *Tropical Vertebrates In A Changing World*. 99-105. Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Bonn. 208 pp.



Fig. 1 : Cat Ba Beach Resort, view of habitats.



Fig. 2 : *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*, perched on rock outcrop.



Fig. 3 : *Gekko palmatus*, on rock outcrop.



Fig. 4 : *Hemidactylus garnotii*, on rock outcrop.



Fig. 5 : *Eutropis longicaudata*, on flat boulder.



Fig. 6 : *Eutropis multifasciata*, amongst leaf litter.



Fig. 7 : *Ahaetulla prasina*, at edge of resort, view 1.



Fig. 8 : *Ahaetulla prasina*, at edge of resort, view 2.

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