

## Records of two lizards from riparian habitat at Sungai Salu, Perak, Peninsular Malaysia

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### **SIGHTING RECORD : 1**

**Identity of subject:** Great Anglehead Lizard, *Gonocephalus grandis* (Reptilia: Squamata: Agamidae).

**Observer:** Nick Baker.

**Photograph by:** Nick Baker.

**Subject identified by:** Nick Baker.

**Location:** Hutan Lipur Sungai Salu, Perak, Peninsular Malaysia. (Lat 4° 22.701'N Long 101° 10.457'E)

**Habitat:** Granite boulders, adjacent to fast-flowing, rocky stream, in lowland dipterocarp forest.

**Date and time:** 02 June 2016, 12:15 hrs.

**Description of record:** A lone *Gonocephalus grandis*, with an estimated snout-vent length of 10 cm, was glimpsed on a rock ledge beneath a large, moss-covered, granite boulder (Fig 2.). The subject was very shy, and quickly retreated into a rock crevice. After a wait of 15 minutes the subject re-emerged and a photograph was taken (Fig 1.).



Fig. 1.

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**Remarks :** The distinctive dark brown band extending from behind the eye and broadening onto the shoulders confidently identifies this lizard as *Gonocephalus grandis*, either an adult female or a juvenile male. The presence of narrow dark stripes in the lateral gular region (versus immaculate and white), and banding on the belly suggests this is most likely a juvenile male (Grismer, 2011: 250).

*Gonocephalus grandis* is widespread in Peninsular Malaysia : it also occurs in southern Thailand, Sumatra and Borneo. It is a riparian species typically found on streamside vegetation or amongst boulders.

Sungai Salu is a rocky stream flowing down the northwesterly slope of an isolated granite mountain, which rises to around 1200 metres. To the immediate east of this feature, but separated by the North-South Highway, lies the Titiwangsa Range. The public access area for Sungai Salu (the 'Hutan Lipur') lies 2 km east of the town of Jeram.



Fig. 2 : The subject was found on a ledge beneath the large granite boulder, at middle-right. © Nick Baker

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## **SIGHTING RECORD : 2**

**Identity of subject:** Spotted Forest Skink, *Sphenomorphus scotophilus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae).

**Observer:** Nick Baker.

**Photograph by:** Nick Baker.

**Subject identified by:** Nick Baker.

**Location:** Hutan Lipur Sungai Salu, Perak, Peninsular Malaysia. (Lat 4° 22.701'N Long 101° 10.457'E)

**Habitat:** Granite boulders, adjacent to fast-flowing, rocky stream, in lowland dipterocarp forest.

**Date and time:** 02 June 2016, 12:42 hrs.

**Description of record:** A single specimen of *Sphenomorphus scotophilus*, with an estimated snout-vent length of 4 cm, was seen clinging to a near-vertical, moss-covered face of a large granite boulder (Fig 3.) : this is at the rear of the same boulder as in Fig. 2. The subject was extremely shy and immediately fled after a photograph was taken.

**Remarks :** The subject exhibits typical colouration and patterning of *Sphenomorphus scotophilus*, including a bronze dorsum, a diffuse black band along the upper flanks, and cream spots on the lower flanks. This skink is typically, but not always, found in riparian habitats and may be seen on streamside tree trunks or boulders.

Records of *Sphenomorphus scotoophilus* from Peninsular Malaysia are somewhat disjunct and are mainly from two broad areas - a northern group in Kedah, Penang and coastal Perak, and a southern group in mainland Johor and islands of the Seribu Archipelago (Johor, Pahang), with additional record(s) from Selangor. (Grismer, 2011: 664). This record from Sungai Salu may be the first from inland Perak, at the western edge of the Titiwangsa Range. The species also occurs in southern Thailand and Sumatra.



Fig. 3.

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**Reference:**

Grismer, L. L. (2011). *Lizards of Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, and their Adjacent Archipelagos. Their Description, Distribution, and Natural History*. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 728 pp.