

Kuhl's Gliding Gecko *Ptychozoon kuhli* on Pulau Bintan, Riau Islands, Indonesia

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Photographs by: Law Ing Sind.

Subjects identified by: Law Ing Sind.

Location: Ria Bintan Golf Course, Pulau Bintan, Riau Islands, Indonesia.

Elevation: Near sea-level.

Habitat: Building with stone walls, adjacent to secondary forest (Fig. 3.).

Date and time: (i) 16 December 2014, 02:46 hrs (ii) 30 June 2016, 20:30 hrs.

Identity of subject: Kuhl's Gliding Gecko, *Ptychozoon kuhli* (Reptilia: Squamata: Gekkonidae).

Description of records: The first sighting, a fully grown specimen with a partly missing tail, was seen 3 metres above the ground on a stone wall at night (Fig. 1.): it appeared to be affected by the observers' flashlights and quickly retreated into the crevices within the wall. The second sighting, of a specimen with a regrown tail, was seen under the roof of the same building at an estimated height of 7 to 8 metres (Fig. 2.): it also appeared to be affected by the flashlights and quickly retreated into a crevice under the roof.



Fig. 1.

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Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

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Remarks: The first specimen is identified as *Ptychozoon kuhli* based on its colours and patterning which are typical of specimens from Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore. Although images of the second specimen are less clear, this gecko is also assigned as *Ptychozoon kuhli* based on the broad, dark stripe behind the eye.

The caudal flap in the first specimen is missing: this typically comprises 25% of the length of the tail (Grismer, 2011: 529). The caudal flap in the second specimen appears to be regrown, as it is elongate in shape and comprises around 40% of the total tail length.

Ptychozoon kuhli is difficult to locate within forest because of its cryptic colours and patterning, however it appears to adapt well to man-made structures adjacent to forest.

Ptychozoon kuhli is one of the most widespread species of gliding gecko : Grismer (2011) summarizes its range as "... from India to southern Thailand, south through Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore to Sumatra and some of its adjacent islands including the Natuna Archipelago, Java and throughout Borneo". It appears that the records described here may be the first formal records of the species from Pulau Bintan (= Bintan Island), one of the largest of the Riau Islands, Indonesia.

References:

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.