

Two limbless skinks *Isopachys* spp. from Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Thailand

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Observer: Charles Currin.

Photographs by: Charles Currin.

Subjects identified by: Charles Currin, Nick Baker.

Location: Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Thailand.

Elevation: Near sea-level.

Habitats: (1) Abandoned pasture (2) Garden of landed property.

Date and time: (1) 28 January 2010, 17:00 hrs (2) 16 September 2008, 11:00 hrs.

Identity of subjects and descriptions of records:

- 1) Prachuap Snake Skink, *Isopachys anguinoides* (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae), one found on a concrete road through abandoned, sandy pastureland after heavy rain, with an estimated total length of 10 cm. (Fig. 1).
- 2) Gyldenstolpe's Worm Skink, *Isopachys gyldenstolpei* (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae), one uncovered in sandy garden soil, about one kilometer inland from the Gulf of Thailand, with an estimated total length of 10 cm. (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

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Remarks: The genus *Isopachys* comprises four species of limbless skink, all of which occur in Thailand. The skink in Fig. 1 is identified as *Isopachys anguinoides* based on the brown colour of the dorsum, with paired dark streaks on the vertebral and dorsolateral regions. The skink in Fig. 2 is identified as *Isopachys gyldenstolpei* based on the brown dorsum, and arrangement of dark and yellow stripes in the dorsolateral region.

Isopachys skinks are well adapted for a subfossorial lifestyle: they are generally encountered after heavy rain, when turning over forest floor vegetation or leaf litter, or when excavating loose, sandy soil. Both species reported here are well-documented components of the lizard fauna of Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan province (Das, 2010).

References:

Das, I. (2010). *A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia*. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd. 376 pp.