

Predation of Tokay Gecko (*Gekko gekko*) by domestic cat (*Felis catus*) in Siquijor Island, Philippines

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Observer: Noe M. Bucol.
Photograph by: Noe M. Bucol.
Subject identified by: Abner A. Bucol.

Location: Lapac, Tambisan, San Juan, Siquijor, Philippines (9.181939°N, 123.459971°E)
Elevation: 5 metres.
Habitat: Residential area with planted bananas and fruit trees.
Date and time: 31 May 2014, 00:03 hrs.

Identity of subjects:

- (i) Tokay Gecko, *Gekko gekko* (Reptilia: Sauria: Gekkonidae).
- (ii) Domestic Cat, *Felis catus* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Felidae).

Description of record: : At 12:03 AM, N. Bucol noticed just outside his house in Tambisan, San Juan, Siquijor that his domestic cat had captured a Tokay Gecko (*Gekko gekko*). The gecko was of a large size and was still alive, but had lost most of its tail (Fig 1).



Fig. 1.

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Remarks: The large orange spots on the flanks of this gecko, and its large size identify this species as a Tokay Gecko. These huge geckos are well-known to inhabit homes along with domiciles, and are known to prey on a wide range of animals such as invertebrates (Aowphol et al., 2006) and vertebrates such as rodents (Bucol & Alcala, 2013) and birds (Sy & Tanalgo, 2018). In recent years they have been targetted for the pet trade (Lim et al., 2012).

The common presence of free ranging domestic cats, including feral populations, has raised concerns as they prey on native animals (Cove et al., 2018). At least one species of house gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) has been known to be preyed by domestic cats (Case et al. 1994). To my knowledge, this is the first documented case of predation of Tokay geckos by a free-ranging domestic cat in the Philippines, although this incident may be common given the abundance of Tokay geckos and that domestic cats are present in almost every household in the Philippines.

References:

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