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ROBERT POWELL

St. Vincent Dwarf Gecko (*Sphaerodactylus vincenti*)



FEDERICO KACCOLIRIS

The survival of Sand Dune Lizards (*Liolaemus multimaculatus*) in Argentina is threatened by alterations to the habitats for which they are uniquely adapted (see article on p. 66).



ART R. FLAGLE

Boelen's Python (*Morelia boeleni*) was described only 50 years ago, testament to its remote distribution nestled deep in the mountains of Papua Indonesia (see article on p. 86).



ALI REZA

Dark Leaf Litter Frogs (*Leptobrachium smithii*) from Bangladesh have very distinctive red eyes (see travelogue on p. 108).



LUKE DIRKSEN

Although any use of Green Anacondas (*Eunectes murinus*) is prohibited by Venezuelan law, illegal harvests are common (see article on p. 74).



GARY S. CASPER

Butler's Garter Snake (*Thamnophis butleri*) was listed as a Threatened Species in Wisconsin in 1997. An effort to remove these snakes from the Wisconsin list of threatened wildlife has been thwarted for the moment (see article on p. 94).



CHARLES H. SMITH, U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

The Golden Toad (*Bufo periglenes*) of Central America was discovered in 1966. From April to July 1987, over 1,500 adult toads were seen. Only ten or eleven toads were seen in 1988, and none have been seen since 15 May 1989 (see Commentary on p. 122).



ROBERT POWELL

About the Cover

Diminutive geckos (< 1 g) in the genus *Sphaerodactylus* are widely distributed and represented by over 80 species in the West Indies. *Sphaerodactylus vincenti* is a relatively large sphaerodactyl, reaching a maximum snout-vent length of 40 mm. The *S. vincenti* complex includes nine currently recognized subspecies, which occur on the St. Lucia, Dominica, Martinique, and St. Vincent island banks. These lizards can be found in leaf litter, under rocks and rotten logs, and in bromeliads. On St. Vincent, *S. v. vincenti* reaches high densities (to 5,625 lizards/ha) in moist, shaded leaf-litter. Such microhabitats provide refuges, access to prey, and protection against desiccation, to which these tiny lizards are exceedingly vulnerable. Geckos living in moist environments at higher elevations are larger and less resistant to water loss than geckos occupying drier habitats at lower elevations. *Sphaerodactylus vincenti* appears to be a dietary generalist that feeds on a variety of small arthropods primarily by day. See also the Natural History Research Report on p. 132.