



# Distribution of the Many-lined Grass Skink, *Eutropis multifasciata* (Kuhl 1820), in Bangladesh

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The Many-lined Grass Skink, *Eutropis multifasciata* (Kuhl 1820), is an uncommon species known to occur in mixed evergreen forests and hilly areas in northeastern and southeastern Bangladesh (Hasan et al. 2014; Khan 2015; Khan 2018), with a recent report (Hossain and Jing 2019) confirming its presence in the northwestern part of the country. The species also is suspected of occurring in north-central Bangladesh (Hasan et al. 2014; Khan 2015). These skinks are associated with open forest floors, forest edges, and the vicinity of streams in primary and secondary forests and around human settlements (Hasan et al. 2014; Chakma 2015). However, the species had not been known to occur in south-central coastal areas until now.

We observed two Many-lined Grass Skinks in Nijhum Dweep National Park, Bangladesh (22°02'17.20"N, 91°00'37.50"E) on 30 December 2019. This park, with a planted mangrove ecosystem, is a 163.52-km<sup>2</sup> offshore coastal island in the Bay of Bengal, located north of the lower Meghna Estuary and south of Hatiya Island (Iftekhara and Takama 2008; Hossain et al. 2016). Both individuals were basking in brushy vegetation (Fig. 1). They matched descrip-

tions in Boulenger (1887) and Hasan et al. (2014). These observations extend the geographic distribution of *E. multifasciata* into the south-central coastal area of Bangladesh.

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Fig. 1. Two Many-lined Grass Skinks (*Eutropis multifasciata*) in Nijhum Dweep National Park, Bangladesh. Photographs by Naim Khandakar.