



# First Record of Leschenault’s Leaf-toed Gecko, *Hemidactylus leschenaultii* Duméril and Bibron 1836, from Bangladesh

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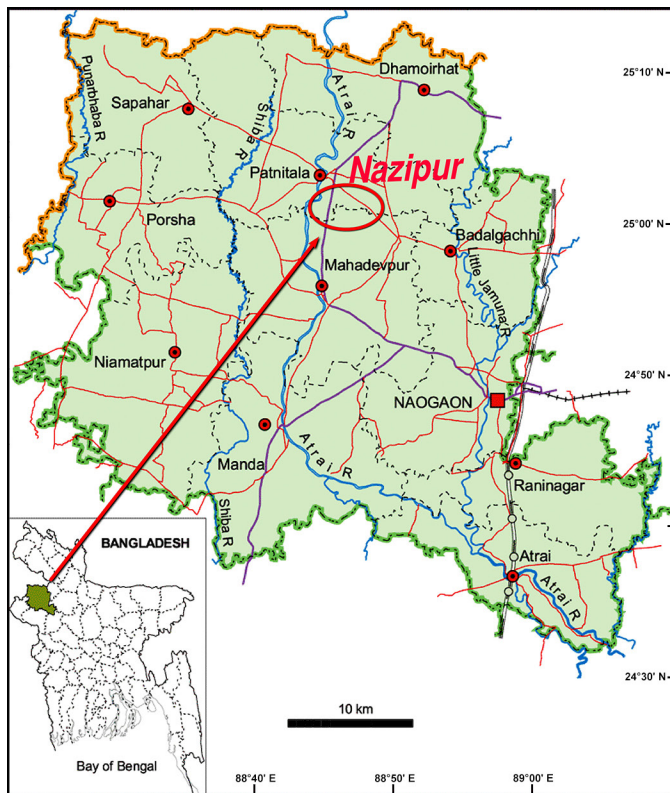
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Photographs by the senior author.

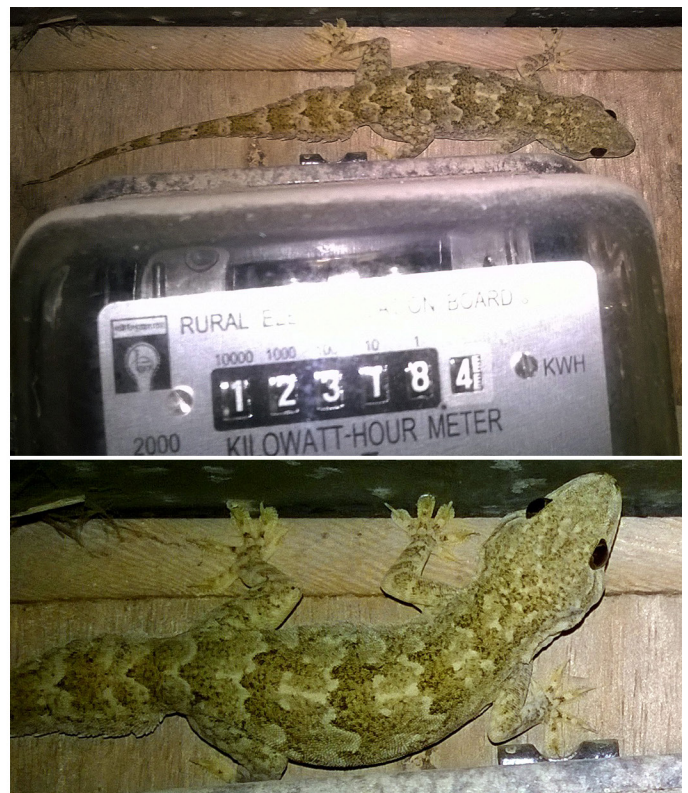
Although Bangladesh is a biodiversity-rich country, knowledge of the herpetofauna is relatively sparse in comparison to that of other Asian nations (e.g., Rahman et al. 2019). Bangladesh is home to 167 documented species of reptiles, one of which is extinct, 38 are in threatened categories, and 128 are of Least Concern (LC), are Data Deficient (DD), or have not been evaluated (NE) (IUCN Bangladesh 2015). Leschenault’s Leaf-toed

Gecko (*Hemidactylus leschenaultii*) is known to occur in southern India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Oman (Uetz et al. 2021). Herein we report the presence of this species in Bangladesh.

At 2130 h on 4 September 2017 in Nazipur Municipality, Patnitala Upazila, Naogaon District, Rajshahi Division, Bangladesh (25°02’42.23”N, 88°45’04.47”E; elev. 24 m asl) (Fig. 1), during a survey of houses constructed of sand and



**Fig. 1.** Location where a Leschenault’s Leaf-toed Gecko (*Hemidactylus leschenaultii*) was encountered and photographed (adapted from the National Encyclopedia of Bangladesh, Banglapedia.org).



**Fig. 2.** A Leschenault’s Leaf-toed Gecko (*Hemidactylus leschenaultii*) from Nazipur Municipality, Patnitala Upazila, Naogaon District, Rajshahi Division, Bangladesh.



**Fig. 3.** The sand house where a Leschenault's Leaf-toed Gecko (*Hemidactylus leschenaultii*) was found.



**Fig. 4.** Eggs of a Leschenault's Leaf-toed Gecko (*Hemidactylus leschenaultii*) in a crack in the wall of a sand house.

unused buildings in a semi-urban area, we encountered and photographed an unknown gecko (Fig. 2) before it hid in a crack in the wall of a sand house (Fig. 3). We found it again at 2230 h on 18 September 2017 but were unable to take additional photographs. We did, however, find two eggs (Fig. 4) in the area where the gecko had been seen. We had planned to continue searching for geckos but on 19 September the house was demolished by the owner.

Using descriptions and images in Daniel (2002), we tentatively identified the gecko as *Hemidactylus leschenaultii*, which was confirmed from photographs by Dr. Kaushuk Deuti, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), who also indicated that the individual in the photographs was most similar to the Sri Lankan morph. A photographic voucher has been deposited in the University of Texas at Arlington, Amphibian and Reptile Diversity Research Center (UTADC 9741a–b).

#### Acknowledgements

We thank Dr. Kaushuk Deuti, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), for confirming the identity of the species, our fam-

ily members who have always supported our work, Kathleen Ninneman and Hector Hinojosa for moral and some financial support to conduct research, Stephen Mahony and Christopher E. Smith for important information, Professor Dr. Jinglan Liu (Beijing Forestry University) for supervising the senior author's Ph.D., and the Amphibian and Reptile Diversity Research Center at the University of Texas at Arlington for accessioning the photographic voucher.

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