REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

The Six-striped Mabouya, *Eutropis englei* (Taylor 1925), Extends its Range Inland on Mindanao, Philippines

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The *Eutropis multicarinata* complex of Philippine sun skinks is characterized by morphologically conserved traits and overlapping distributions (Barley et al. 2013, 2020). Among the least studied species in this complex is the phenotypically distinct Six-striped Mabouya (*E. englei*) that was described by Taylor (1925) from the coast of Cotabato Province (now Sarangani) in the Philippines. This skink remained a mystery to science because no specimens were collected for decades (Taylor 1925; Barley et al. 2020; Pitogo et al. 2020). Despite being common and locally abundant in its known range, little information is available about the species' extent of occurrence (EOO). All previously verified localities of *E. englei*, including the type locality, are in the Municipality of Maitum in Sarangani Province (Pitogo et al. 2020). However, the recent IUCN Red List assessment (Pitogo 2022) for this species projected its EOO from the coast to about 25 km inland in south-central Mindanao (Fig. 1). Herein, we report observations of *E. englei* in North Cotabato Province, extending the known range of the species 45.3 km inland on Mindanao Island, whereas the previous most-inland record was 23 km from the coast (Pitogo et al. 2020).

In July 2019, we encountered a population of *E. englei* in a disturbed residential area surrounded by farms (Fig. 2A–B) at Kidapawan City, North Cotabato Province (7.012326 N, 125.081648 E; elev. ~175 m asl), 115.1 km from Maitum. Individuals had five longitudinal dorsal stripes, broad brown lateral stripes extending from behind the eyes to the insertions of hindlimbs, and bluish throats, which collectively distinguish *E. englei* from all other skink species known to occur in the Philippines (Pitogo et al. 2020) (Fig. 3). Skinks were in a backyard green space on grass and leaf litter, hiding in crevices, and basking on piles of concrete and rocks from 0800–1400 h (Fig. 2C–D), where they occur syntopically with another disturbance-tolerant and widespread skink, the Common Mabuya (*E. multifasciata*). A photographic voucher has been deposited in the University of Kansas Digital Archive (14041) and the identity of the species was confirmed by Dr. Anthony J. Barley.

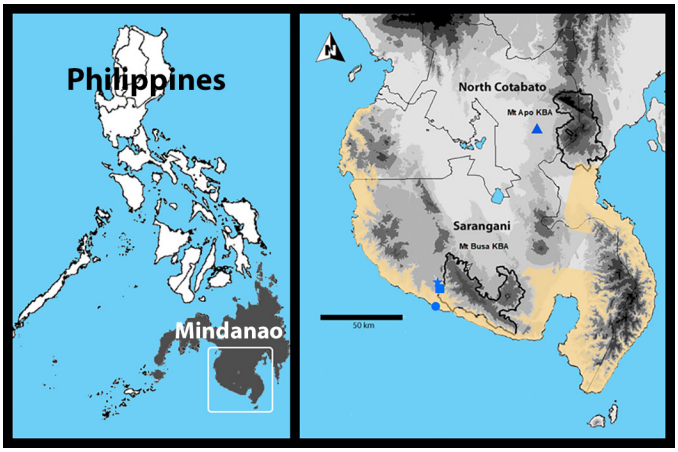

Figure 1. Map of southcentral Mindanao, Philippines, showing the verified localities for the Six-striped Mabouya (*Eutropis englei*): Type locality (blue circle), Pitogo et al. 2020 (blue square), Dakeol Forest (blue star), and the present study (blue triangle). The previously documented extent of occurrence (EOO) (Pitogo 2022) is indicated by the ochre color. Darker shades of gray indicate higher elevations.

Our record extends the EOO of *E. englei* farther inland and corroborates its tolerance to disturbance, which further supports the recent assessment of *E. englei* as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Pitogo 2022). Although this species is common and widespread in lowland areas, it is absent from many herpetological surveys conducted on Mindanao, highlighting the need for more targeted field-based surveys in the diverse lowland habitats of the region (Pitogo et al. 2020; Maglangit et al. 2022).

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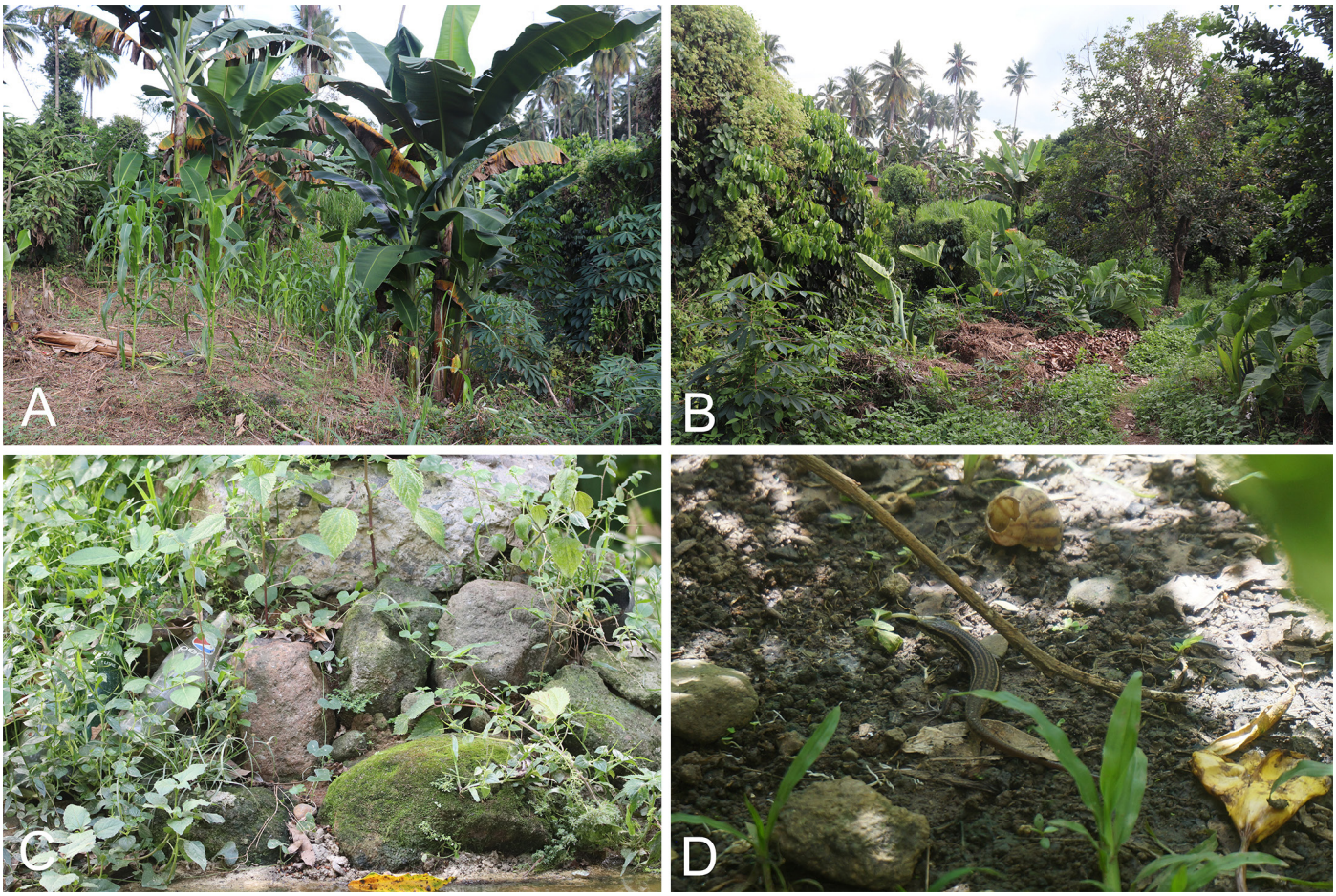

Figure 2. Habitat of the Six-striped Mabouya (*Eutropis englei*) at Kidapawan City, North Cotabato, Mindanao, Philippines: Farms planted in coconut, corn, banana, cassava, and other fruit trees (A, B); microhabitat of *E. englei* in rock crevices and on piles of concrete and rocks (C, D). Photographs by A.V.M Tirona.

Figure 3. Adult Six-striped Mabouyas (*Eutropis englei*) from Maitum, Sarangani Province (left) and Kidapawan City, North Cotabato Province (right), on Mindanao, Philippines. Photographs by K.M Pitogo (left) and A.V.M Tirona (right).

map, and property owners for allowing us to conduct our study on their land.

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