

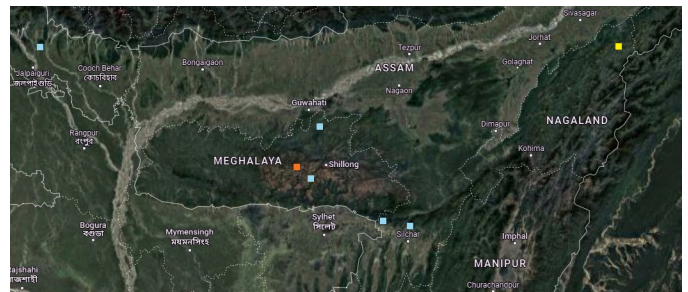


# First Authenticated Records of the Khasi Hills Long-tailed Lizard, *Takydromus khasiensis* Boulenger 1917 (Squamata: Lacertidae), from Nagaland, India

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Four of the 24 currently recognized species of grass lizards in the genus *Takydromus* Daudin 1802, which occur primarily in southern, southeastern, and eastern Asia, are found in India: *Takydromus haughtonianus* Jerdon 1870, *T. khasiensis* Boulenger 1917, *T. sexlineatus* Daudin 1802, and *T. sikimensis* Günther 1888 (Uetz et al. 2023). The Khasi Hills Long-tailed Lizard (*T. khasiensis*) is currently known from Meghalaya, Assam, and West Bengal (Das et al. 2019; Uetz et al. 2023). Bhupathy et al. (2013) mentioned the presence of *Takydromus* sp. in Nagaland but could not confirm the identity of the species due to a lack of specimens. Das et al. (2019) mentioned its distribution in Nagaland, Mizoram, and Tripura, but did not provide any authentic records for these states. While examining specimens at the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), North Eastern Regional Centre (NERC), Shillong, I found two specimens of *T. khasiensis* that had been collected in Nagaland, which represent the first records from the state that are supported by museum specimens.



**Figure 2.** Documented localities of the Khasi Hills Long-tailed Lizard (*Takydromus khasiensis*): type locality (orange square); other known localities (blue squares), and the new record (yellow square).

On 6 August 2005, Rosamma Mathew collected two specimens of this species on a forest trail in a patch of subtropical forest 3 km from the Mon Forest Rest House, Mon District, Nagaland (26.7138, 95.0330), one of least explored areas in the region. They were deposited in the ZSI, NERC, Shillong (VR/ERS/ZSI/212 A–B) (Fig. 1).

I documented the following characters in both specimens: nasals slightly in contact; fronto-nasal slightly broader than long; prefrontals broadly in contact; fifth labials in contact with suboculars; three pairs of chin shields; three supraciliaries on each side; four supraoculars on each side, three in contact with supraciliaries; posterior loreal larger than anterior loreal; dorsal plates in four longitudinal rows; and scales on flanks pointed and keeled, arranged in three vertical series, surrounded by comparatively large, keeled scales. Measurements of the two specimens, VR/ERS/ZSI/212 A and B, respectively, are: SVL 49.9 mm and 49.5 mm; tail length 166.0 mm and 155.0 mm; head length 8.9 mm and 8.6 mm; head width 6.2 mm and 6.7; snout length 5.5 mm and 5.8 mm; eye to nostril distance 4.2 mm and 3.9 mm; nostril to tip of snout distance 2.4 mm and 1.9 mm; eye diameter 3.1 mm and 2.8 mm; tympanum diameter 2.5 mm and 2.3 mm; and eye to tympanum distance 4.0 mm and 3.7 mm.



**Figure 1.** One of two specimens of the Khasi Hills Long-tailed Lizard (*Takydromus khasiensis* Boulenger 1917) at the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), North Eastern Regional Centre (NERC), Shillong, India (VR/ERS/ZSI/212 A). Photograph by Dr. P.G.S. Sethy.

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