

Changeable Lizard *Calotes versicolor* at Sanur, Bali, Indonesia

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Observer: Robin James Backhouse.
Photograph by: Robin James Backhouse.
Subject identified by: Robin James Backhouse.

Location: Near 'Taman Festival' (abandoned) theme park, north Sanur, Bali, Indonesia.
Elevation: 5 metres.
Habitat: Secondary, coastal habitat with abandoned buildings, 100 metres from the coast.
Date and time: 08 September 2018, 11:49 hrs.

Identity of subject: Changeable Lizard, *Calotes versicolor* (Reptilia, Squamata, Agamidae).

Description of record: A single *Calotes versicolor*, with an estimated snout-vent length of 10 cm, and light brown in colour with a cream dorso-lateral stripe (Fig 1), was found sunning itself on a palm tree, 3 metres from a roadside and 10 metres from secondary growth.

Remarks: This lizard is identified as *Calotes versicolor* based on i) a low vertebral crest, ii) absence of large spines around the eye and head, iii) presence of small groups of spines, separated from each other, above the tympanum and (iv) general body and limb proportions. The brown colour is usually characteristic of females or immature lizards.

Calotes versicolor is a species native to south Asia (Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh), northern parts of Southeast Asia (Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, northern Peninsular Malaysia) and southern China (Uetz & Hallermann, 2018). It is considered an introduced species to parts of Sumatra and Borneo (Das et al, 2008). It has been postulated that export of sugarcane from Java in the 19th century caused the introduction of the species to the Seychelles (Matyot, 2004).

Previous herpetological surveys in Bali failed to record this species from the island (Somaweera, 2017). Therefore, this record from Sanur is likely the first record of this species from Bali (R. Somaweera, pers. comm.).



Fig. 1.

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The presence of this species in Sanur, Bali is probably a result of human-facilitated introduction. It is possible that it arrived at Sanur harbour by boat from the neighbouring island of Java, where it is known to occur.

References:

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