

Ati False Gecko *Pseudogekko atiorum* on Panay Island, Philippines

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Observer: Flavio A. Nava.
Photograph by: Flavio A. Nava.
Subject identified by: Emerson Y. Sy.

Location: Panay Island, Barangay Osman, Municipality of Malinao, Aklan Province, Philippines.
Elevation: 162 metres ASL.
Habitat: Stream bank of a secondary growth forest.
Date and time: 04 April 2023, 07: 30 hrs.

Identity of subject: Ati False Gecko, *Pseudogekko atiorum* (Reptilia: Squamata: Gekkonidae).

Description of record: A small, slender gecko was first noticed when it moved away from the approaching observer. It rested on a rock near the water edge of a stream bank and remained motionless (Fig. 1). The observer took photos and left the gecko on site.



Fig. 1.

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Remarks:

The gecko was identified as *Pseudogekko atiorum* based on (i) its moderate head, which is slightly distinct from neck, (ii) dorsal head above eyes is light brown (iii) dorsum is greyish brown, (iv) conspicuous series of very small cream-coloured round spots on dorsolateral (v) no body striping, and (vi) the tail is slender (Davis et al., 2015). All these features are visible in the photograph.

The vernacular name of Ati False Gecko derives from the Ati ethnic group who inhabit the Visayas region of the Philippines, which includes Panay Island.

Pseudogekko atiorum has been documented on the islands of Negros (type locality), Siquijor, and Cebu, and was hypothesized to be present on other islands of West Visayan faunal region (Davis et al., 2015; Supsup et al., 2016). This note confirms the presence of Ati False Gecko on Panay Island.

References:

Davis, D.R., Watters, J.L., Köhler, G., Whitsett, C., Huron, N.A., Brown, R.M., Diesmos, A.C. and Siler, C.D. (2015). Redescription of the rare Philippine false gecko *Pseudogekko brevipes* (Reptilia: Squamata: Gekkonidae) and description of a new species. *Zootaxa* 4020: 357-374.

Supsup, C.E., N.M. Puna, A.A. Asis, B.R. Redoblado, M.F.G. Panaguinit, F.M. Guinto, E.R. Rico, A.C. Diesmos, R.M. Brown, and N.A.D. Mallari. 2016. Amphibians and reptiles of Cebu, Philippines: the poorly understood herpetofauna of an island with very little remaining natural habitat. *Asian Herpetological Research* 7(3): 151-179.