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## **A study of Behaviour, Habitat and Ecology on *Calotes ceylonensis* Müller, 1887 (Reptilia: Agamidae) from Sri Lanka**

SURANJAN KARUNARATHNA<sup>1</sup> & THASUN AMARASINGHE<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> B-1/G-6, De Soysapura Flats, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Email: dmsameera@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup> 146, Kendalanda, Homagama, Sri Lanka. Email: aathasun@gmail.com

There are 18 species of Agamid lizards distributed through out Sri Lanka, 15 (83 %) of them are endemic and the genera *Ceratophora* GRAY, 1834, *Cophotis* PETERS, 1861 and *Lyriocephalus* MERREM, 1820 are relic to the island. The genus *Calotes* CUVIER, 1817 represents 7 species and 5 of them are endemic to the island. The *Calotes ceylonensis* (MÜLLER, 1887) is endemic, diurnal and arboreal Agamid lizard. This colourful species only found in the low country dry and intermediate zones (below 500 m a.s.l) in Sri Lanka, snout-vent length (SVL) varies 78 mm – 106 mm (mean 94 mm). Very little is known about the Ecology, Biology and Behaviour of this species throughout its range, hence we have examined 45 localities (March 2002 to April 2006) throughout 7 districts. A total of 68 individuals (Males: 37, Females: 18 and Juvenal's: 13) were observed in nature. The analysis of habitat data has shown that species is widely spared within the well shading riverine-forested areas and poorly in the home gardens. The results of this survey indicate *C. ceylonensis* lays eggs about 4-12 from August to October on shady places nearly 1 foot away from the tree base. While laying eggs the females change their body color in to black. The eggs are 13.5 mm - 17.1 mm (mean 14.2 mm) long and 7.8 mm – 8.9 mm (mean 8.3 mm) wide. Hatchlings come out from November to December. They mostly waiting for their preys on *Lantana camera* (an invasive plant to Sri Lanka) trees while camouflaging their snout color in to pink (the flowers of *L. camera* are also pink). They specially feed on butterflies; honeybees and other insects, while feeding on *L. camera*. These lizards' natural predators are Arboreal Colubrid snakes, Hornbills and Civet cats. When a danger appears this lizard suddenly climbs in to a tree on average 15 m high and then glides to another tree which 1 m away till the danger disappears. If there is no another tree to glide they just jump down to the ground and stay few minutes without moving, then suddenly run in to another tree. The current habitat destruction shows a great warning to this species. The limited habitat and distribution suggested that *C. ceylonensis* would be extinct in near future.