

NEW LIZARDS OF THE GENUS *PSEUDOTHECADACTYLUS* (LACERTILIA: GEKKONIDAE) FROM ARNHAM LAND AND NORTHWESTERN AUSTRALIA

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SUMMARY

A new species and a new subspecies of the gekkonid lizard genus *Pseudothecadactylus* Brongersma are described from the western escarpment of Arnhem Land and the Kimberley region of Western Australia respectively.

The genus *Pseudothecadactylus* was previously monotypic, and the characteristics, habits, distribution and relationships of the new forms and of *P. australis* Günther are discussed briefly.

INTRODUCTION

Brongersma (1934) erected the genus *Torresia* to accommodate the large and distinctive gecko *Thecadactylus australis* Günther from the islands of Torres Strait. Longman subsequently pointed out that Brongersma's *Torresia* was preoccupied by *Torresia* Castelnau, 1875 (Pisces: Labridae), as a result of which Brongersma (1936) renamed his genus *Pseudothecadactylus*. This genus has remained monotypic since it was first described as *Torresia*.

In February, 1972, a series of specimens of a large new gecko was collected by B. L. Bolton and D. Lindner of the Forestry, Fisheries, National Parks and Wildlife Branch, Department of the Northern Territory, from Deaf Adder Creek, a tributary of Nourlangie Creek on the western escarpment of Arnhem Land.

Subsequently, additional specimens have been found at various localities along and adjacent to the Arnhem Land escarpment, while Dr Glen M. Storr has kindly permitted me to examine and describe specimens representing a distinctive race from near Port Warrender, Western Australia.

These distinctive geckos are clearly congeneric with *Pseudothecadactylus australis*, and are described below. The zoogeographic implications of their discovery, and a re-assessment of the distribution and status of *P. australis*, are also discussed. Measurements were made according to the criteria of Kluge (1967).