Project Update: June 2009

July–October 2007
Numerous locations visited incorporating the divisions of North, West and South Tripura for observation of habitat quality, potential species diversity, logistics and local support. Any species of herpetofauna encountered during the visit were photographed in the wild.

November 2007– May 2009
Relevant literature was sourced and most species were identified based on photographs taken in the wild, compared to museum collections in Bangladesh (JUHG, Dhaka), India (ZSI, Kolkata & Delhi University), Ireland (NMI, Dublin) and England (BMNH, London).
Species of potential taxonomic importance were identified. Scientific publication writing began based on unexpected additional results of associated museum work.

Results to date
Photographs from Tripura distinguish 62 distinct species of amphibians and reptiles, of which 40 represent new state records!!

Three scientific papers are in review and three in manuscript for publication in peer reviewed journals. Key results from papers in review:

- Description of two new species of lizards, a Bent-toed gecko from Myanmar and a Flat-backed japalura (agamid lizard) from northeast India.
- Elevation of a subspecies of gecko to full species status.
- Generic reallocation of two poorly known agamid lizards, including proposed synonymisation of a genus.
- Khasi Hills Bent-toed gecko removed from the reptile checklist of Myanmar where it has been incorrectly considered present since 1935.
- Redescription of two poorly known *Japalura* agamids and a *Cyrtodactylus* gecko from Myanmar.
- New state record for the Khasi Hills flat-backed japalura (*Japalura planidorsata*) from Tripura state.

Guest Presentation
March 2009: The Herpetofaunal Diversity of Tripura State, Northeast India, at Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, for MS students of the Wildlife Biology and Conservation course, National Centre for Biological Science, Bangalore, India.
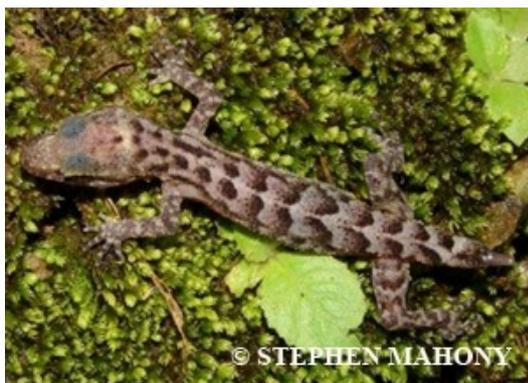
Possible new species of gecko (*Cyrtodactylus khasiensis* complex) from Tripura.