

Project Update: December 2018

Covering period of this report: May – December 2018

1. Resources

We have collected almost all the literature (nearly 60 peer reviewed journal articles, governmental reports, technical reports, environmental assessments, dissertation theses, and local journals with limited circulation) related to agamid ecology, their biogeography, phylogenetics and evolutionary trends, natural and life histories, and conservation. We did the museum reference work to find distributional records, and collected some data via personal communication with field experts. We will continue our literature survey while fieldwork is in progress.



2. Field work

We started the survey in May 2018. There was a delay of issuance of research permits by the Department of Wildlife Conservation. We finished our survey in south-western lowlands and foothills, Central Highlands, Knuckles Range and Rakwana Range. We did transect of 10 locations (based on 100 × 5 m belt transects) that are stratified across different habitat types found outside protected areas.

3. Preliminary results

We recorded numerous rare species and their different life-history stages with egg laying behaviour. Some distribution records, population data, and behaviour are first documented for the first time. Tree dwelling species use different trees with different bark types, and laying different height on the tree (e.g. heights tree dweller is *Calotes desilvai*). The management of this data is underway. We intend to conduct preliminary analyses, at least at the completion of the first field season.



4. Conservation

We documented some information on illegal pet trade collection in and around protected areas. We did preliminary education awareness to villages and school children about illegal collections. We did participate in Red List development programme in Ministry of Environment to evaluate conservation status of herpetofauna in Sri Lanka, especially agamids.