

SEA-SHORE SKINK

Another inland sighting of *Eutropis bibronii* (Gray, 1838) in scrub habitat, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India



IUCN Red List:

Global — NA

National Red List
(India) — Least
Concern
(Srinivasulu et al.
2014)

The physical appearance of *Eutropis bibronii* live uncollected species from Tirumangalam. Inside images show the diagnostic characters of the species.

Reptilia
[Class of Reptiles]

Squamata
[Order of scaled lizards]

Scincidae
[Family of smooth
skinned skinks]

Eutropis bibronii
[Sea-shore Skink]

Species described by
Gray in 1838

The Sea-shore Skink *Eutropis bibronii* (Gray, 1838) is well known sandy dwelling species and usually seen in coastal area vegetation. The distribution range of this species eastern coastal plains from Puri, Odisha (19°N & 85°E) in the north, through Madras (12°N & 80°E), Rameshwaram, Kilakarai (9°N & 77°E), south to Rajakamangalum in Travancore (8°N & 77°E) southernmost India; and also in Sri Lanka in northeastern parts of Jaffna, Mullaittivu (9°N, 80°E), Chundikulam (8°N & 81°E), and Pollonnaruwa (7°N & 81°E (Smith 1935; Chandramouli et al. 2012).

This species has recently been record in Rasimanal (12°N & 77°E) in Ottapatu Reserve Forest in Krishnagiri District by Chandramouli et al. (2012), far inland.

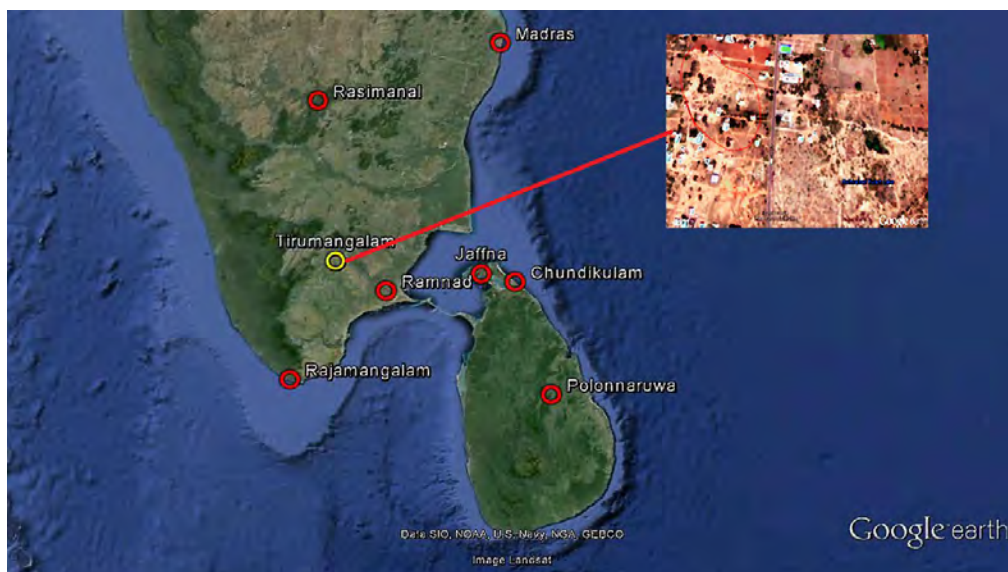
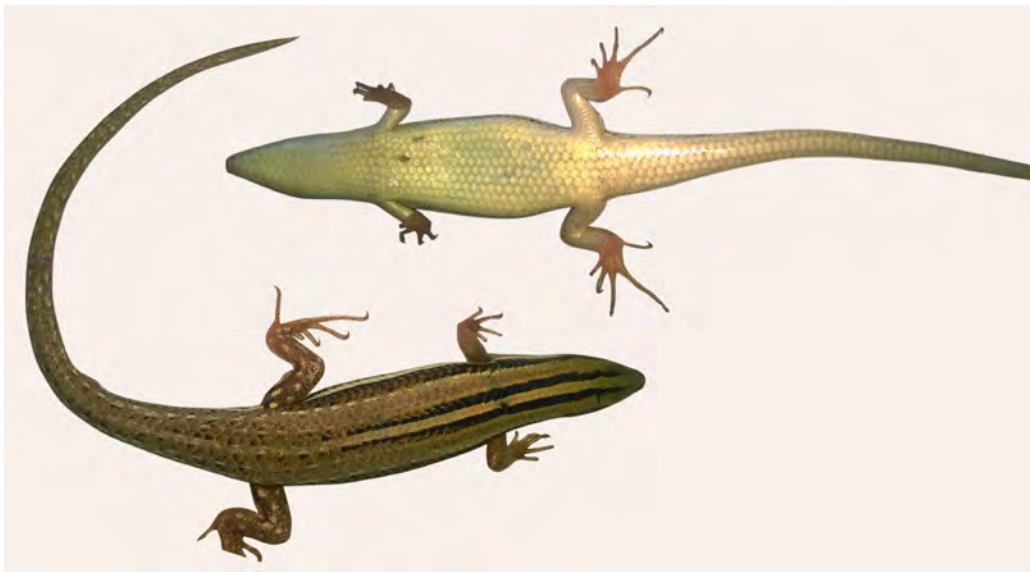


In this note, we report two adult *Eutropis bibronii* and three *E. carinata* individuals observed during our intensive field work on 17 January 2016, foraging on the leaf litter (00:11h), Thirumangalam (9°50'N & 77°58'E, 136m), Madurai District, Tamil Nadu.

Colouration in life

Dorsum sand-brown with a black edged, bright cream-yellow vertebral stripe, covering the upper halves of adjacent scales, extending in length from behind the frontal to the tail, conspicuous anteriorly to mid-torso, discontinuous and faint posteriorly; a thick black

Global Distribution :
Endemic to South Asia
(India and Sri Lanka)



The distribution range of *Eutropis bibronii* in southern most India and Sri Lanka. The red circles indicating known distribution of the species from earlier studies and yellow circle indicating new locality of *Eutropis bibronii*

lateral stripe from snout to tail on either side, bordered below by a wide white stripe as a continuation of the white labials; an orange stripe below the white lateral stripe; hind limbs



with creamy white spots above; sub digitals and distal part of sub-caudal reddish brown to ochre; venter un-patterned creamy white; ventral scales with greyish-brown borders as reported elsewhere in Tamil Nadu (Chandramouli et al. 2012).

Habitat

Usually present in coastal lines vegetation (Smith 1935); however, recent study documented distribution of this species inland habitat by Chandramouli et al. (2012). This study further affirms the earlier finding. Unlike Chandramouli et al. (2012) that documented the species from a sandy stretch of a riverine tract, this sighting was from a *Prosopis juliflora* invaded uncultivated land around a human habitation, which consists of mixed black soil with leaf litter. Individuals were found among the roots of *Prosopis julifera* along with dry leaf litters. This observation will help to improve the spatial distribution of *Eutropis bibronii*.

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References

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