

PSEUDOGEEKKO DITTOY (Leyte Diminutive False Gecko). MORPHOLOGY. *Pseudogekko dittoy* is a recently described, secretive species of gecko known only from the islands of Leyte and Samar in east-central Philippines. Few specimens of this species have been encountered or collected, and as such, researchers have had limited ability to detect morphological variation among individuals. The examination of secondary sexual characteristics has been an important tool used to determine the sex of individuals in this genus. Many secondary sexual characteristics exist among lizards, but a widespread diagnostic character used to differentiate sexes is the presence of enlarged, preloacal or femoral pores. Typically, these pores are used to identify males of a species; however, the presence of preloacal pores in females has been documented in several families, including Lacertidae (Khanoon et al. 2013. *Zool. Sci.* 30:110–117), Liolaemidae (Valdecantos et al. 2014. *Acta Herpetol.* 9:147–158), and Gekkonidae. Within the family Gekkonidae, females with preloacal pores have been reported for multiple genera, including *Cyrtodactylus* (Bauer et al. 2010. *Zootaxa* 2570:41–50; Pauwels et al., 2014. *Zootaxa* 3755:584–594), *Hemiphyllodactylus* (Zug 2010. *Smithson. Contr. Zool.* 631:1–70), *Hoplodactylus* (Jewell 2006. *Identifying Geckos in Otago*. Science & Technical Publishing, Department of Conservation, Wellington, New Zealand. 60 pp.), and *Naultinus* (Jewell 2006, *op cit.*). Herein, we report on the first record of preloacal pores in female *Pseudogekko*.

During a recent biodiversity survey from 1 June to 9 July 2014 on Samar Island in the eastern Philippines, we collected two adult *P. dittoy* on leaf litter near stream systems: a single, gravid, adult female (KU 338507) in Municipality of San Jose de Buan, Western Samar Province, Samar Island, Philippines (12.05262°N, 125.03429°E, WGS 84; 209 m elev.), and a single adult male (KU 338508) in Barangay San Rafael, Municipality of Taft, Eastern Samar Province, Samar Island, Philippines (11.80255°N, 125.29276°E, WGS 84; 140 m elev.). The specimens have 18 (female) and 17 (male) small pores in continuous, preloacal series, which are moderately arched anteromedially. The posterior half of the body on the male specimen is damaged; however, comparisons with the pore series of a previously

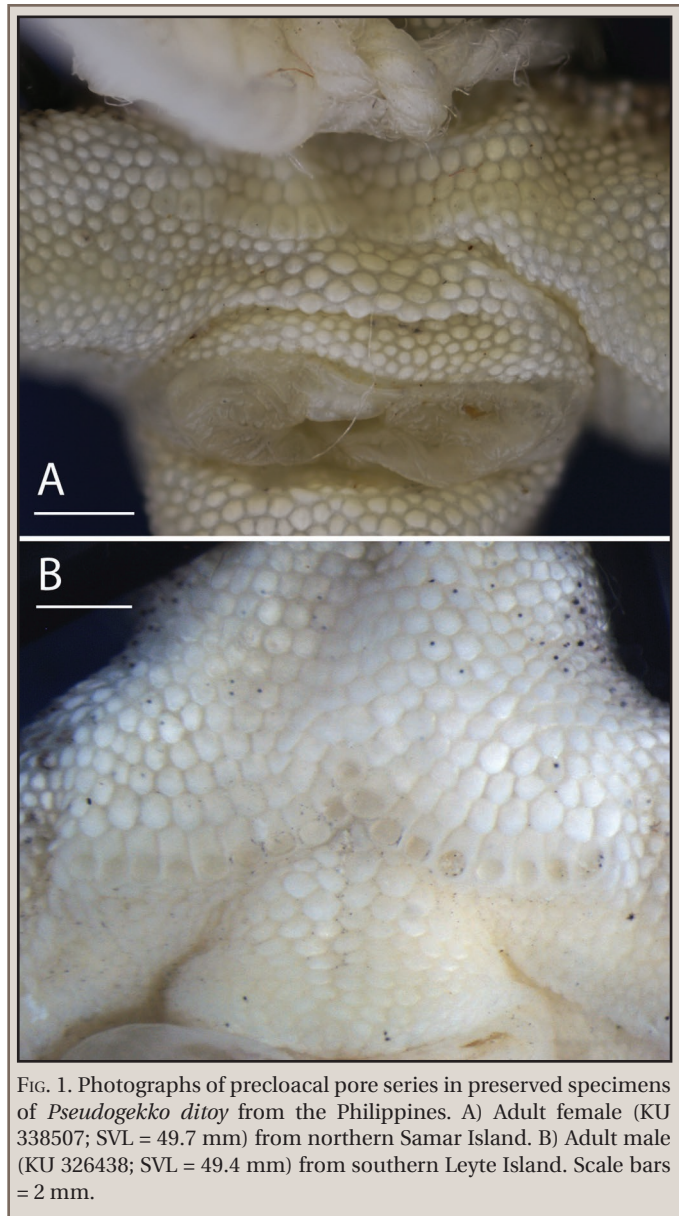


FIG. 1. Photographs of preloacal pore series in preserved specimens of *Pseudogekko dittoy* from the Philippines. A) Adult female (KU 338507; SVL = 49.7 mm) from northern Samar Island. B) Adult male (KU 326438; SVL = 49.4 mm) from southern Leyte Island. Scale bars = 2 mm.

collected adult male (KU 326438, paratype) shows female pores to be smaller in size than male pores (Fig. 1). Recognizing that this character has been used to determine sex in systematic studies of this genus, with the presence of pores recognized to occur in males only (Siler et al. 2014. *Herpetol. Monogr.* 28:110–139), caution must be taken in future studies concerning the use of this character to determine sex, and gonadal inspection may be necessary for proper validation. Fieldwork was supported by NSF DEB 0743491 and EF-0334952 to RMB, and NSF DEB 0804115 and IOS 1353683 to CDS.

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