

New locality records for *Phelsuma breviceps* and *Cryptoblepharus boutonii* ssp. from Andavadoaka, southwest Madagascar

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Most recent herpetological inventory work in Madagascar has been carried out in existing or proposed protected areas (D’Cruze et al., 2009), with the result that little is known about species distributions outside such sites, and distribution data are patchy for many species (Glaw and Vences, 2007). Here we present new locality records for two coastal lizards from Andavadoaka (24.076° S, 43.236° E), southwest Madagascar, collected May 6th-11th, 2010. Coastal vegetation at the site is classified by Moat and Smith (2007) as ‘south western coastal bushland’ and is dominated by *Megistostegium* sp. (Malvaceae) and *Euphorbia stenoclada* (Euphorbiaceae), with a canopy height of approximately 2m. It grows on two distinct substrates; unconsolidated sand dunes and limestone outcrops.

Gekkonidae: *Phelsuma breviceps* Boettger, 1894

This species is apparently restricted to a thin band of south western coastal bushland on the south-west coast (Glaw and Vences, 2007). Although Raselimanana (2004) mentions a record from the Mikea Forest area, the source for this record is not cited, and the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ) database contains no record of this gecko from north of Toliara (C. Raxworthy, pers. comm.).

We recorded an adult and a juvenile *P. breviceps* on May 11th, 2010 (Fig. 2; A-B). Both individuals were

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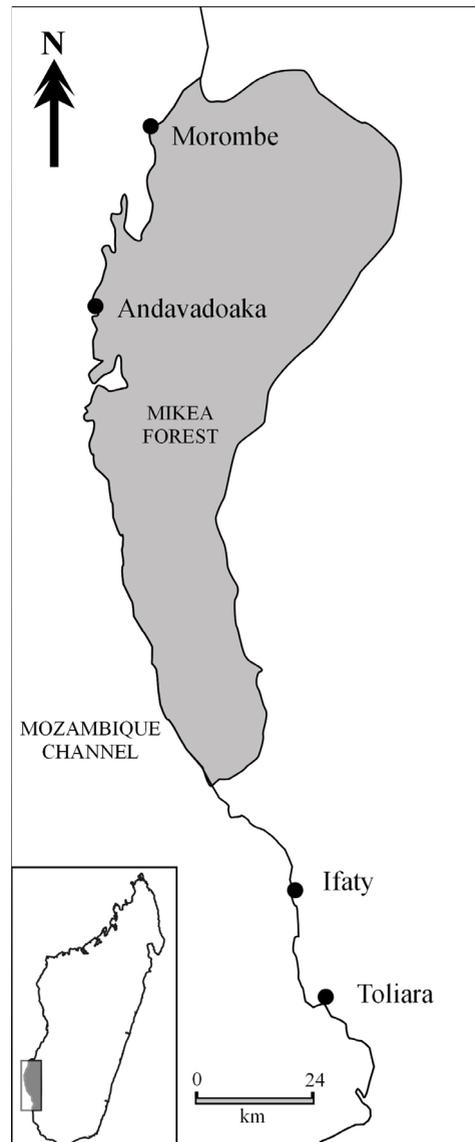


Figure 1. Map of southwest Madagascar showing localities mentioned in text (Mikea Forest area shaded in grey).



Figure 2. A) *Phelsuma breviceps*, adult; B) *P. breviceps*, juvenile; C) *Cryptoblepharus boutonii* ssp.; D) *C. boutonii* ssp.

found on branches of *Megistostegium* sp. (Malvaceae) shrubs, on sand dunes within 15m of the high tide mark. This observation represents the first recent and traceable record of the species from north of Toliara, and therefore represents a range extension of approximately 170 km.

Scincidae: *Cryptoblepharus boutonii* spp. (Desjardins, 1831)

Two taxa of this strictly coastal polytypic lizard are known from Madagascar; *C. b. cognatus* from the northwest coast and *C. b. voeltzkowi* from the southwest and southeast (Glaw and Vences, 2007). Andreone and Greer (2002) proposed elevating these forms to full species but this classification is not supported by Rocha et al. (2006), who maintain subspecific status. Within the southwest, *C. b. voeltzkowi* is known from Ifaty, while an unidentified subspecies has been recorded from Morombe (Brygoo, 1986, cited in Glaw and Vences, 1994).

C. boutonii was abundant on coastal limestone outcrops to the north and south of Andavadoaka village. Although too little is known about patterns of geographical colour variation of the species in Madagascar to be able to assign the specimens we observed to subspecies (F. Glaw, pers. comm.), these specimens appear to

represent two distinct forms. Figure 2C shows a robust individual with light brown dorsolateral stripes and three supralabials anterior to the subocular supralabial (matching the description of *C. b. cognatus*), while figure 2D shows a more slender individual with more diffuse dorsolateral stripes against a blueish dorsal background colour, and four supralabials anterior to the subocular supralabial (apparently referable to *C. b. voeltzkowi*). Note, however, that while Andreone and Greer (2002) propose dorsal colouration and number of supralabials as distinguishing characteristics for these taxa, their analyses were based on small sample sizes and they found no definitive, non-overlapping differences between the forms. We therefore hesitate to draw firm conclusions regarding the subspecific identity of the individuals we observed.

We also observed a number of additional reptile species that are more widespread within the region; *Mimophis mahfalensis* (Colubridae), *Trachylepis elegans* (Scincidae), *Chalarodon madagascariensis*, *Oplurus cyclurus* (Iguanidae), *Furcifer verrucosus* and a recently dead male *F. labordi* (Chamaeleonidae). This last record is late in the year for this species, whose populations further south senesce completely by the end of April (Karsten et al., 2008).

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