

Numbers of Reptiles Collected on Southern Island Trips as Indicated by Trip Reports

SIC 10-20

compiled by R.B. Clapp --28 July 1969

SIC 20 - October 1968 -- Notes on Green Sea Turtle -- none said to be collected

SIC 19- June-July 1968

Sydney Island Report - July 1968 (Clapp) - 2 Polynesian Geckos, c. 25 Mourning Geckos,
and c. 10 Snake-eyed Skinks collected.

Howland Island Report - July 1968 (Clapp) -- None collected

Mckean Island Report -- July 1968 (Clapp) -- 1 Mourning Gecko collected

Enderbry Island Report -- July 1968 (Clapp) -- c. 4 Mourning Geckos and c. 25 Snake-eyed
Skinks collected.

Baker Island Report -- July 1968 (Hackman and Clapp) -- None collected

Starbuck Island Report -- June 1968 (Clapp and Hackman) -- 4 Mourning Geckos collected.

Jarvis Island Report -- June 1968 (Clapp) -- None collected.

Malden Island Report -- June 1968 (Clapp) -- a "representative series" collected of Snake
eyed Skinks and "a small series" of Mourning
Geckos collected.

SIC 18 - March-April 1967

Starbuck Island Report -- April 1967 (Smith) -- Reptiles not mentioned in rept.

Malden Island Report -- Mar.-Apr. 1967 (Stadel) -- Reptiles not mentioned in rept.

Baker Island Report -- April 1967 (Tuxson) -- 4 Snake-eyed Skinks were collected

Jarvis Island Report -- March 1967 (Chandler) -- 1 Mourning Gecko was collected.

Palmyra Island Report -- March 1967 (Stadel) -- Reptiles not mentioned in report.

Fanning Island Report -- March 1967 (DeLong) -- Forty specimens, believed to be of two
species were collected.

Christmas Island Report -- March 1967 (Stadel) -- Reptiles not mentioned in report.

Swains Island Report -- April 1967 (Chandler) -- 40 + reptiles of at least 3 species collected
(Black Skinks and some gecko other than
Lepidodactylus)

Howland Island Report - April 1967 (Stadel) -- Reptiles not mentioned in report

SIC 17 - January-February 1967

- Baker Island Report -- Feb. 1967 (Smith) 6 Snake-eyed Skinks and 1 Mourning Gecko collected.
- Hull Island Report -- Jan-Feb. 1967 (Crossin) -- Reptiles not mentioned in report.
- Phoenix Island Report -- Jan. 1967 (Chandler) -- No reptiles (terrestrial) occur.
- Howland Island Report -- Feb. 1967 (Tuxson) -- 9 Snake-eyed Skinks, 6 Mourning Geckos, and 2 Mourning Gecko eggs collected
- Baker Island Report -- Jan. 1967 (Chandler) -- 2 Mourning Geckos collected
- Enderbury Island Report -- Jan. 1967 (Balcomb) -- Reptiles not mentioned in report
- Howland Island Report -- Jan. 1967 (Balcomb) -- Reptiles not mentioned in report.
-

SIC 16 - November-December 1966

- Swains Island Report -- Nov. 1966 (Crossin & Balcomb) -- 1 Polynesian Gecko, 1 Mourning Gecko, 21 Azure-tailed Skinks and 2 other skinks (probably Black Skinks) collected.
- Enderbury Island Report -- Dec. 1966 (Crossin & Balcomb) -- 5 Snake-eyed Skinks collected and 11 Mourning Geckos "captured" latter evidently not collected.
- Phoenix Island Report -- Dec. 1966 (Crossin) -- None collected
- Baker Island Report -- Nov. 1966 (Chandler) -- 3 Snake-eyed Skinks and 9 Mourning Geckos collected.
- Howland Island Report -- Nov. 1966 (Balcomb) -- 8 Snake-eyed Skinks and 10 Mourning Geckos collected
- Howland Island Report -- Dec. 1966 (Balcomb) -- Report says 9 Mourning Geckos examined and 6 Snake-eyed Skinks examined but apparently they were not collected.
-

SIC 15 - September-October 1966

Phoenix Island Report -- Oct. 1966 (Woodward) -- 2 turtle skulls collected

Baker Island Report -- Sept. 1966 (Woodward) -- Evidently none collected

Howland Island Report -- Oct. 1966 (Bulmer) -- Reptiles not mentioned in report.

Howland Island Report -- Sept. 1966 (Bulmer) -- Reptiles not mentioned in report.

Swains Island Report -- Oct. 1966 (Bulmer) -- 6 Azure-tailed Skinks, 1 Emoia sp (prob. nigra)
1 Polynesian Gecko, and 2 Mourning Geckos
collected.

Birnie Island Report -- Oct. 1966 (Woodward) -- 1 turtle skull collected.

Enderbury Island Report -Sept.-Oct. 1966 (Bulmer & Woodward) -- Reptiles not mentioned

Hull Island Report -- Oct. 1966 (Bulmer) -- 21 Snake-eyed Skinks, 10 Azure-tailed Skinks,
3 Stump-toed Geckos, and 1 Polynesian Gecko
collected.

Baker Island Report -- Oct. 1966 (Bulmer) -- 10 Snake-eyed Skinks and 15 Mourning Geckos
collected.

Fitch- Reptile Report Sic 15

Says following were collected :

Howland	--	31 Snake-eyed Skinks, 18 Mourning Geckos,
Enderbury	-	41 Snake-eyed Skinks, 40 Mourning Geckos,
Hull	-----	21 Snake-eyed Skinks, 10 Azure-tailed Skinks, 1 Mourning Gecko, 1 Polynesian Gecko, 3 Stump-toed Geckos
Baker	-----	10 Snake-eyed Skinks, 15 Mourning Geckos,
Swains	----	6 Azure-tailed Skinks , 2 Mourning Geckos 1 Polynesian Gecko, 1 Black Skink

Table suggests that 30 Snake-eyed Skinks and 17 Mourning Geckos collected on 1st visit to Howland and one of each collected on 2nd visit. Fitches figures agree with those in individual island accounts, except for 1 Mourning Gecko from Hull.

SIC 14 - July-August 1966

- Gardner Island Report -- July 1966 (Clapp) - 2 Snake-eyed Skins, 1 Blue-tailed Skink, 2 Stump-toed Geckos and 3 Mourning Geckos collected.
- McKean Island Report -- July 1966 (Clapp) -- 21 Mourning Geckos collected
- Howland Island Report -- July 1966 (Clapp)- 9 Snake-eyed Skinks and 19 Mourning Geckos collected.
- Baker Island Report -- Aug. 1966 (Clapp) -- None collected
- Baker Island Report -- July 1966 (Clapp) -- 17 Snake-eyed Skinks and 1 Mourning Gecko collected.
- Howland Island Report -- Aug. 1966 (Clapp & Bulmer) -- Reptiles not mentioned in report.
- Jarvis Island Report -- Aug. 1966 (Clapp) -- 5 Mourning Geckos collected (or possibly more)
- Swains Island Report -- Aug. 1966 (Clapp & Bulmer) -- 2 Azure-tailed Skinks, and 2 *Emoia* sp (prob. Black Skinks) collected.
-

SIC 13 - 1966

- Howland Island Report -- May 1966 (Harrington) Report suggests reptiles were collected but gives no details.
- McKean Island Report -- Apr.-May 1966 (Crossin) -- Reptiles not mentioned in report.
- Palmyra Island Report -- May 1966 (Crossin) -- 106 specimens of 3 species of geckos and 4 *Bufo marinus* collected. 102 of geckos were Mourning Geckos, other 4 not identified.
- Baker Island Report -- May 1966 (Heryford) -- 3 Snake-eyed Skinks and 4 Mourning Geckos collected.
-

SIC 12 -- March 1966

Howland and Baker Islands visited -- No specimens collected

SIC 11 - February-March 1966

Howland, Baker and Swains visited twice, Hull, Enderbury & Christmas visited

Thompson report -- Does not mention reptiles.

SIC 10 -- November 1965

Howland and Baker visited -- evidently no specimens collected

*

Summary of Numbers of Reptiles Collected on Southern Islands on SIC 10 through SIC 20

	<u>How</u>	<u>Bak</u>	<u>Mck</u>	<u>Phoe</u>	<u>Ender</u>	<u>Birn</u>	<u>Syd</u>	<u>Gard</u>	<u>Hull</u>	<u>Swains</u>	<u>Palm</u>	<u>Fann</u>	<u>Xmas</u>	<u>Jarv</u>	<u>Mald</u>	<u>Star</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Mourning Gecko</u>																	
SIC 19 June-July '68	0	0	1	na	4	na	c25	na	na	na	na	na	na	0	small seri	4	> 31
SIC 18 Mar.-Apr. '67	0	0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	?	0	?	0	1	0	0	1
SIC 17 Jan.-Feb. '67	8**	3	na	0	0	na	na	na	0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	11
SIC 16 Nov.-Dec. '66	10	9	na	0	0	na	na	na	na	1	na	na	na	na	na	na	20
SIC 15 Sept.-Oct. '66	18	15	na	0	40	0	na	na	1	2	na	na	na	na	na	na	76
SIC 14 July-Aug. '66	19	1	21	na	na	na	na	3	na	0	na	na	na	5	na	na	49
SIC 13 Apr.-May '66	0	4	0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	102	na	na	na	na	na	106
<u>Total</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>c 25</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>?</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>?</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>> 294</u>

Azure-tailed Skink

Gardner - July 1966 -----	1	Swains - Nov. 1966 -----	21
		Oct. 1966 -----	6
		Aug. 1966 -----	2
			<u>29</u>

Polynesian Gecko

Sydney -- July 1968 -----	2	Swains - Nov. 1966 -----	1	Hull - Oct. 1966 -----	1
		Oct. 1966 -----	1		
			<u>2</u>		

* As indicated by trip report. 0 indicates either that none were collected or that the species was not mentioned in the report - which certainly suggests that none were collected; ? indicates that species collected was not known. Trips on which no specimens were listed as taken are not included in these tables. ** including two eggs

Summary of Numbers of Reptiles Collected on SIC 10-20 (cont.)

Stump-toed Gecko

Hull - Oct. 1966 ----- 3 Gardner - July 1966 ----- 2 Total : 5

Black Skink (and Emoia that were almost certainly this species)

Swains - Apr. 1967 ----- ?
 Nov. 1966 ----- 2
 Oct. 1966 ----- 1
 Aug. 1966 ----- 2
 5

Unidentified Lizards

Swains - Apr. 1967 ----- 40+
 Fanning - Apr. 1967 ----- 40
 Palmyra - May 1966 ----- 4 (geckos)
 84 +

Green Turtle

Phoenix - Oct. 1966 ----- 2 (skulls) Birnie - Oct. 1966 ----- 1 (skull)

Snake-eyed Skinks

Howland - Feb. 1967 ----- 9	Baker - Apr. 1967 ----- 4	Enderbury - July 1968 ----- c. 25
Nov. 1966 ----- 8	Feb. 1967 ----- 6	Dec. 1966 ----- 5
Sept-Oct. 1966 ----- 31	Nov. 1966 ----- 3	Sept. Oct. 1966 ----- <u>41</u>
July 1966 ----- 9	Oct. 1966 ----- 10	c. 71
<u>57</u>	July 1966 ----- 17	
	May 1966 ----- 3	
Sydney - July 1968 ----- c. 10	<u>43</u>	Malden --- June 1968 ----- small series
Gardner - July 1966 ----- 2		Hull ---- Oct. 1966 ----- 21

Total : > 204

Total Reptiles Collected SIC 10-20 (Total probably not less than 30 specimens low) : 629

Lizard Specimens Collected

on
SIC 9 and SIC 11

Field Numbers	Species	Locality	Date	Remarks	# of specimens
10755-10761	<u>Ablepharus</u> <u>boutoni</u>	Baker Is.	Sept 17, 1965	Collected in sandy area with logs, boards, & scant vegetation.	7
10762-10767	<u>Lepidodactylus</u> <u>lugubris</u>	Baker Is.	"	On stone light house 3 of 6 with regenerated tails	6
10768-10773	<u>Ablepharus</u> <u>boutoni</u>	Baker Is.	"	"	6
10774-10780	<u>Lepidodactylus</u> <u>lugubris</u>	Baker Is.	Sept 18, 1965	On stone light house	7
10781	<u>Emoia</u> <u>cyanura</u>	Tutuila Is.	Oct. 7, 1965	On wall built of coral chunks	1
10782-10798	<u>Ablepharus</u> <u>boutoni</u>	Hull Is.	Sept. 24, 1965	On rock walls, large chunks of coral rubble	17
10799-10804	<u>Lepidodactylus</u> <u>lugubris</u>	Mokean Is.	Sept. 21, 1965	On rock walls, large chunks of coral rubble	6
10805-10812	<u>Ablepharus</u> <u>boutoni</u>	Hull Is.	Sept. 24, 1965	In and around deserted coconut thatch building	8
10813-10839	[Mostly <u>Emoia</u> <u>cyanura</u> but about 6 other unidentified <u>Emoia</u> ?	Swains Is.	Feb. 18, 1966		27
10840-10855	<u>Lepidodactylus</u> <u>lugubris</u>	Enderbury Is.	Oct. 1, 1965	On stone air raid shelter	15
10856-10861	<u>Ablepharus</u> <u>boutoni</u>	"	Oct. 2, 1965	Sandy area w/ loose boards & deserted building	6
10862	<u>Peropus</u> <u>mutilatus</u>	Oahu Is.	Feb 22, 1966	Collected on underblank wall	1
10863	<u>Scliphia</u> <u>occidentalis</u>	Hull Is.	Sept 28, 1965	In and around deserted coconut thatch building	1
10864-10870		Mokean Is.	Sept [21-23] 1965	On rock walls large chunks of coral	7
10871-10879	<u>Lepidodactylus</u> <u>lugubris</u>	Motulupua, Christmas	Oct. 26, 1965	In Messerschmidia tree	9
10880	<u>Peropus</u> <u>mutilatus</u>	Main Island,	Oct 28, 1965	On sidewalks and buildings	1
10881-10883	<u>Lepidodactylus</u> <u>lugubris</u>	Christmas Island	"	"	3
10884	<u>Ablepharus</u> <u>boutoni</u>	Hull Is.	Sept 29, 1965	In and around coconut thatch buildings	1
10885	<u>Lepidodactylus</u> <u>lugubris</u>	"	"	"	1
10886-10887	<u>Ablepharus</u> <u>boutoni</u>	"	Sept 24, 1965	buildings	2
10888	<u>Peropus</u> <u>mutilatus</u>	"	"	"	1
10889-10892	<u>Ablepharus</u> <u>boutoni</u>	"	"	"	4

Fanning - Reptiles

Six species of reptiles are now known to occur on Fanning Island, one turtle, three skinks, and two geckos. Both geckos (Polynesian Gecko and Mourning Gecko) were recorded by the Whitney South Sea Expedition (Burt & Burt 1932) and the presence of the turtle was affirmed in the earlier literature (Burnett 1910). None of the three lizards (Azure-banded Skink, Snake-eyed Skink, and Moth Skink) collected by Smithsonian personnel have been reported ~~previously~~ in the previous literature.

Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) [?]

Current Status: Uncommon to Rare

Prior Records: Burnett (1910) indicated that turtles were abundant in the lagoon when he visited Fanning in 1909. This datum, included in Wien's book on coral atoll ecology (1962), was interpreted by Parsons (1962) as documentation for Fanning Atoll as a nesting station of the Green Turtle, ~~while this may be true~~, which, while perhaps true, is stated by neither Burnett nor Wien.

P.O.BSP - In March 1964 a single turtle skull was collected _____ and from its size and appearance was probably that of the above listed species. No turtles were seen during either visit [and presumably, since the Gilbertese copra workers readily eat them]

S. Sibley

POBSP Specimens: [One turtle skull was collected by Sibley in March, 1964 but it was never sent to herpetology (?) and its present whereabouts are unknown.]

Other Specimens: None

Azure-tailed Skink (Emoia cyanura)

Current Status: Common

Prior Records: None

POBSP Observations: Numerous Azure-tailed Skinks were observed on both visits to Fanning. They prefer coconut palm forests and are found more abundantly there.

On March 27, 1964 an Azure-tailed Skink nest containing eleven unhatched eggs was found on the ground underneath a coconut husk. The white eggs had scattered amber spots on upon them and were found in a compact cluster. The measurements (length and maximum diameter) of ten of these eggs were:

12.5 x 7.3 mm.; 12.5 x 7.2 mm.; 13.1 x 6.6 mm.; 13.5 x 8.0 mm.; 13.3 x 7.8 mm.; 13.0 x 8.1 mm.; 13.1 x 7.4 mm.; 13.4 x 6.9 mm.; 14.1 x 7.7 mm.; and 13.0 x 7.2 mm., (\bar{x} = 13.2 x 7.4 mm.)

POBSP Specimens: Mar. 27, 1964: USNM 157612-157621 (10 specimens),

July 3, 1965: USNM 158400-158401 (2 specimens) [plus 2 uncollected amber spots.]

Other Specimens: None

Moth Skink (Leiolopisma noctua)

Current Status: Uncommon to rare

Prior Records: None

POBSP Observations: A few of these skinks were collected on each visit but they were decidedly less common than the other two skinks occurring on the island. In some six hours of collecting on March 27, 1964 only six or seven Moth Skinks were seen and only one of these was obtained as a specimen.

These skinks were always found in association with coconut trees none being observed in areas lacking them.

POBSP Specimens: Mar. 27, 1964: USNM 157622 (1 specimen)

July 3, 1965: USNM 158402-158403 (2 specimens)

[plus 1 uncollected amber specimen]

Mourning Gecko (Lepidodactylus lugubris)

Current Status: Common

Prior Records: Burt and Burt (1932) recorded Mourning Geckos from Fanning on the basis of three specimens collected by the Whitney Expedition in _____

POBSP Observations: Mourning Geckos were commonly seen and collected on both POBSP visits, ~~and are~~ ^{They} were much more abundant than the larger gecko, which was seldom seen and which was not collected.

See up

POBSP Specimens Mar. 27, 1964: USNM 157605 - 157611 (7 specimens)
July 3, 1965 USNM 158390 - 158399 (10 specimens)

Polynesian Gecko (Gehyra oceanica)

Current Status: Not established.

Prior Records: A single specimen was collected by the Whitney South Sea Expedition when they visited Fanning in _____.

POBSP Observations: Although no specimens have yet been collected by POBSP personnel, several large geckos, which may have been the above species, were seen in March, 1964. Since another large gecko (Peperus mutilatus), rather similar in appearance, occurs on nearby Christmas Island, ~~no~~ ^a more precise statement of identification is unwarranted without specimen confirmation.

Four white eggs, which, from their size and shape, are apparently those of a large gecko.

POBSP Specimens None

Other Specimens: AMNH 36528

" were found in a pile of rotting leaves at the base of a coconut palm

Snake-eyed Skink (Cryptoblepharus boutonii)

Current Status : Common.

Print Records : None

P.O.B.S.P. Observations : Snake-eyed Skinks were frequently seen on both visits to Fanning but were only collected on the first visit, in March 1964. They were much more common in open, drier, areas (particularly in stands of Lepturus grass) than in moister, forested areas.

} close up

← is there such a word?

Other Specimens : None

P.O.B.S.P. Specimens : Mar. 27, 1964 : USNM 157623-157628 (6 specimens)

[plus one Huber uncatalogued specimen]

SEP 8 1969

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Dr. Peters

DATE: 8 September 1969

JPC
FROM : Jane P. Church, Pacific Program

SUBJECT: Proper acknowledgment for identification of herps

In order to give proper credit in papers to be submitted for publication we would appreciate knowing who identified the following lizards:

Emoia cyanura - USNM 158350-158352, Vostok Island

Emoia nigra - USNM 158358, Caroline Atoll

Gehyra oceanica - USNM 158353-354, Caroline Atoll

Lepidodactylus lugubris - USNM 158355-357, Caroline Atoll

ALL
DORIS COCHRAN
IDENTIFIED



Order of Listing for Amphibia and Reptilia in Island Accounts, Tables, etc.¹

Scientific Name ²	Common Name ³
AMPHIBIA	
Bufonidae	Toads
<u>Bufo marinus</u> Linnaeus	Marine Toad
<u>Bufo</u> sp.	Toad sp.
Ranidae	True Frogs
<u>Rana rugosa</u> Schlegel	Wrinkled Frog
<u>Rana</u> sp.	Frog sp.
REPTILIA	
Cheloniidae	Marine Turtles
<u>Chelonia mydas</u> (Linnaeus)	Green Turtle Turtle sp.
Gekkonidae	Geckos
<u>Gehyra mutilata</u> (Wiegmann) ⁴	Stump-toed Gecko
<u>Gehyra oceanica</u> (Lesson)	Polynesian Gecko
<u>Hemidactylus frenatus</u> Dumeril & Bibron	House Gecko
<u>Hemidactylus garnoti</u> Dumeril & Bibron	Fox Gecko
<u>Hemiphyllodactylus typus</u> Bleeker	Tree Gecko
<u>Lepidodactylus lugubris</u> (Dumeril & Bibron)	Mourning Gecko
Scincidae	Skinks
<u>Ablepharus boutoni</u> [?] ⁵	Snake-eyed Skink
<u>Dasia smaragdina</u> Barbour	[?]
<u>Emoia cyanura</u> (Lesson)	Azure-tailed Skink
<u>Emoia nigra</u> (Hombron & Guichenot)	Black Skink
<u>Emoia samoensis</u> (Dumeril)	[?]
<u>Emoia</u> sp.	Skink sp.
<u>Lygosoma noctua</u> (Lesson) ⁶	Moth Skink

1. Order of listing for Lizards follows W.C. Brown (1957) and **amphibia** and other reptiles follow Oliver and Shaw (1953)
2. Descriptor is listed after generic and specific names since herpetological journals sometimes require this **information**. Their use is probably not necessary for most of our accounts.
3. Most common names are from Oliver and Shaw. Polynesian Gecko stems from Schmidt and Necker (1933) but is somewhat inappropriate since the species is found throughout a much wider area than Polynesia. RBC coined the name Black Skink for use in the paper on the birds of Swain's Island (Clapp, 1968)
4. Also often listed as Peropus mutilatus (Wiegmann)
5. Also often listed as Cryptoblepharus boutonii poecilopleurus (Wiegmann). Proper citation may be Ablepharus boutonii Gray but this needs verification.
6. Also often listed as Lygosoma (Leolopisma) noctua (Lesson)