

A survey of reptilian composition in some parts of the arid land of Leydon Island of Northern region, Sri Lanka

The Northern Sri Lanka consists a number of Islands, which are situated, in the direction of South West to Jaffna, of which four namely, Mandaitivu, Pungudutivu, Leydon Island and Karainagar were connected through bridges and roadways with the main land. A survey was carried out in the abandoned arid lands and palmyrah grooves associated lands with human habitats of the Leydon Island (790 50' - 790 60' N ; 90 36.5' - 90 43'E), to identify the different reptilian species and to estimate their relative abundance. The sampling was done from 0700 hrs to 1100 hrs and from 1600 hrs to 1830 hrs in two places in the Leydon Island namely Velanai and Narantanai for a period of four months, from November 2000 to February 2001, during the South West monsoon. In addition to the Visual Encounter Survey (VES), a total of 25 plots, each having a dimension of 5 m x 5 m, were randomly sampled in each study site and were

thoroughly searched for reptilian species with minimum impacts on substrate habitats. The micro-habitats of each individual also noted. A total of 10 species of reptiles belonging to 7 families were recorded from the sites surveyed. Of which, one species of skink *Mabuya carinata lankae* was endemic. The descending order of the percentage relative abundance of the reptilian species was as follows: *Riopa punctatus* - 36.99; *Amphiesma stolatum* - 17.81; *Hemidactylus brooki parvimaclatus* - 10.96, and *Ramphotyphlops braminus* - 9.59.