

Additions to the Terrestrial Fauna of the Offshore Islands north-west of Trinidad

By HANS E.A. BOOS

Emperor Valley Zoo, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

The terrestrial reptilian fauna of the group of islands situated west and south of the northwest peninsula of Trinidad was considered and listed by Boos (1983 a).

The uniqueness of Monos Island, in view of the evidence for the existence of mammals there, was also discussed by Boos (1983 b).

Since the publication of the two papers on these islands, several trips were made to them and the following additional animals were recorded.

Monos Island

Lizards

Polychrus marmoratus (Linnaeus). Collected at Grand Fond Bay, 26 Nov 1983.

Tortoises

Geochelone carbonaria (Spix)

The identity of the tortoise captured and lost by Correia and the eggshells found by Seyjagat (Boos 1983 b) was established by the taking of two juvenile tortoises in the Grand Fond hillside and ravine by H. Boos, J Seyjagat and Peter Pritchard of Florida Audubon Society on the 6 July 1984.

Mammals

Further evidence of the porcupine *Coendu prehensilis* was obtained on the collecting trip of 21 March 1985, when a young stray dog was found with its face covered with quills, obviously embedded when it had attacked a porcupine some time before.

A sighting was made by Jeffrey Gomes of the black-eared opossum or manicou, *Didelphis marsupialis*. From tooth marks on partially eaten mango seeds it would appear that the agouti, *Dasyprocta leporina*, is there. Itinerant occupants of the Villafana House reported the armadillo or tatoo, *Dasyus novemcinctus*, in the valley.

Amphibians

On the 13 October 1987, the first amphibian was recorded for Monos. A large female crapaud, *Bufo marinus*, was seen under piles of rotting timber behind the Villafana House.

Chacachacare Island

A large female, which was the second specimen of *Polychrus marmoratus*, was taken on this island on 19 September 1986. It was later released after several ticks were removed from the neck area. The ticks were sent to the United States of America for information and identification.

The Cotorras (Five Islands)

Nelson Island

Lizards

Ameiva ameiva atrigularis Garman

Anolis aeneus Gray

Gymnophthalmus underwoodi Grant

Hemidactylus mabuia (Moreau de Jonnes)

Gonatodes vittatus vittatus (Lichtenstein)

These were all seen on 1 June 1987 during a trip I made to the island accompanied by personnel from the Metro Toronto Zoo. *Thecadactylus rapicaudus* which was reported by Kenny (in Boos 1983 a) was not seen.

Gasper Grande (Gasparee) Island

Snakes

Leptodeira annulata ashmeadi (Hallowell). Caught in Maris Stella, a bay on the North Coast of the island by boy scouts in March 1990.

References

- BOOS, HANS E.A. 1983 a. A consideration of the Terrestrial Reptile Fauna on some offshore Islands North West of Trinidad. *Living World*. Jour. Trinidad & Tobago Field Nat. Club, 1983-1984.
- BOOS, HANS E.A. 1983 b. The Terrestrial Reptiles of Monos Island. *Living World*. Jour. Trinidad & Tobago Field Nat. Club, 1983-1984.