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New locality record of Common Skink *Eutropis carinata* (Schneider, 1801) in urban area of Dhaka, Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

Eutropis carinata found in diverse habitats including the forest of both plains and low hills. It is diurnal and terrestrial species, frequently seen basking or foraging in open areas and ground dweller. This articles reports the distribution of *Eutropis carinata* in the urban area of Bangladesh, reporting the based on filed observations.

Key words: *Eutropis carinata*, distribution, urban area, Bangladesh.

INTRODUCTION

The skinks belong to the genus *Eutropis* is widely distributed in South and South East Asia (Das et al., 2008) and is represented in Bangladesh by four species, the most common of which is *Eutropis carinata* (Schneider, 1801) (IUCN Bangladesh, 2015). *Eutropis carinata* is widely distributed in Bangladesh but this species is common in rural areas of Bangladesh (Kabir et al. 2009). This species has two subspecies: *E. carinata carinata* (Schneider, 1801) and *E. carinata lankae* (Deraniyagala, 1953) but which one occurs in Bangladesh has not yet been confirmed. *E. carinata* found in diverse habitats including forests, homestead vegetation, parks and gardens. This article reports the distribution of *Eutropis carinata* in the urban area of Bangladesh.

STUDY SITE AND METHODS

Observations took place at Mirpara, Demra in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 19 May 2019. The key observations were made by the naked eye with 8 m away from the skink and for taking photographs by camera to identification the species.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

While walking along a narrow trail through a partially shaded area with tall trees at around 10:45 am on 19 May 2019, we found an *Eutropis carinata* walking on the trunk of a tree at Mirpara (23°43'38.47"N, 90°29'10.33"E), Demra in Dhaka (Fig. 1). This area is heavily urbanized and it possesses a wide diversified gradient simultaneously. We followed Hasan et al. (2014) to make a positive identification of the species. The individual matched the characteristics listed by Hasan et al. (2014) well, including olive-brown body and anteriodorsal part of the tail dark-brown with few black spots (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1. Map depicting location where *Eutropis carinata* was spotted.



Fig. 2. *Eutropis carinata* in its natural habitat in urban area of Dhaka.

This species is found in newly accreted islands where there are human habitations as well as in offshore islands such as the Hatiya and Saint Martin's (Khan 2015; Hasan et al. 2014). However, very few locations are known as their occurrence but virtually no published information is available on the Bangladesh population and none reported this species from urban area in Bangladesh. This article reports on an extension range and new geographic distribution of *E. carinata* in the urban area of Bangladesh.

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