

# Multiple tail furcations in a common house gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus* from Thailand

FREEK BEIJENDORFF<sup>1</sup> & PRZEMYSŁAW ZDUNEK<sup>2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rang Ka Yai, Amphoe Phimai, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand

<sup>2</sup>NATRIX Herpetological Association, ul. Opolska 41/1, 52-010 Wrocław, Poland

\*Corresponding author e-mail: [zdunek.komodo@gmail.com](mailto:zdunek.komodo@gmail.com)

The common house gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus* Duméril & Bibon 1836, is a relatively small (SVL 60 mm), arboreal, nocturnal lizard. It is native to south-east Asia with a widespread distribution in the Pacific islands; it has also been introduced widely elsewhere by anthropogenic means (Rodda, 2020). There are numerous records of various lizard species detailing tail furcations following caudal autotomy (Baum & Kaiser, 2024), including *H. frenatus* with bifurcated or/and duplicated tails (e.g. Heyborne & Mahan, 2017; Maria & Al-Razi, 2018; Khandakar & Sultana, 2020; Caicedo-Martínez et al., 2022).

On 27 April 2024 at 16:17 h, an adult (approx. 60 mm) common house gecko was observed with multiple furcations of the tail, on the wall of the veranda (Fig. 1). The observation was made in a house at Rang Ka Yai (Nakhon Ratchasima province), Thailand (15° 12.987540 N, 102° 33.793860 E; 158 m a.s.l.). This gecko exhibited typical behaviour for its species by hunting insects on the wall near the ceiling. At the observation site, and the surrounding environment, geckos of the same species are observed, as well *Hemidactylus platyurus* and *Gecko gecko*.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first documented observation of multiple tail furcation in this species. Although

the cost of tail loss has been studied extensively (e.g. Clause & Capaldi, 2006; García-Rosales et al., 2023), understanding the possible impact of abnormal tail regeneration on individual survival merits study. Observations such as these, even as single events, can broaden the scope of information about the natural history and autotomy of lizards and their tail abnormalities.

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**Figure 1.** An adult common house gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus* with supernumerary tails

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