

Short Note

New Record of *Ophisaurus gracilis* (Reptilia: Anguidae) from Na Haew National Park, Loei Province, Thailand

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The Asian glass lizard, *Ophisaurus gracilis* (Gray, 1845), is a limbless, terrestrial lizard that has been infrequently observed in northern Thailand during the past twenty years¹. It is reported to be a secretive, possibly burrowing

lizard, which lives under logs and stones and feeds on insects, mollusks, and small vertebrates^{1,2,3}. Tikader (1967) reports death feigning during handling of this species.

Ophisaurus gracilis is reported to occur



FIGURE 1. Photograph of the *Ophisaurus gracilis* observed at Na Haew National Park, Loei Province.

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from the Himalayan foothills of northern India and southern China and in northern Indochina at elevations over 1400 m^{4,5}. Brygoo (1987) reports specimens from 600 to 2000 m in Yunnan. Records of the species also exist for Sichuan Province in Central China⁷ and Xizang, Tibet⁸. Campden-Main (1970) collected a single

specimen from Binh Dinh Province in South Vietnam. Three records exist for *O. gracilis* in northern Thailand: Chiang Mai, Doi Pha Hom Pok; Mae Hong Son, Pang Tong; and Loei, Phu Luang¹ (Y. Chuaynkern pers. comm.).

On November 12, 2003 while trekking in Na Haew National Park, Loei Province, Amphur Na Haew, Thailand, I observed an *O. gracilis* in a bamboo forest at approximately 1000 m elevation. The lizard was active on the surface on the bamboo leaf litter and was easily captured by hand. Having no collecting permit I did not collect the animal but briefly examined and photographed it (Fig. 1). The specimen was approximately 35 cm in total length. Upon release, the lizard escaped by sliding down the hillside over the leaf litter. It did not retreat under the leaf litter.

Little is known about the ecology, distribution, and natural history of this interesting species and further study is warranted.

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