

active, they range over a wider area. From available data, I cannot clearly state what their behaviour is immediately after their breeding season is over. However, during this period Gecko 1 frequented a different room than it did during the winter. Geckos 1 and 2 both spent the winter of 1965-66 behind a cistern in a bath room and were often seen together.

GENETICS AND BIOMETRY LABORATORY,
GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA,
BHUBANESWAR-3,
September 23, 1967.

S. D. JAYAKAR¹

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17. OBSERVATIONS ON THE LIMBLESS LIZARD *OPHISAURUS GRACILIS* (GRAY) FROM SHILLONG, ASSAM

(With a plate)

The limbless lizards of the genus *Ophisaurus* are uncommon and only one species, *Ophisaurus gracilis* (Gray), occurs in India. This beautiful snake-like lizard was first described by Gray (1845) from Khasi Hills, Assam. I collected nearly half a dozen specimens of the limbless lizard *Ophisaurus gracilis* (Gray) from Shillong. The animal (locally known as *naingbaen*) hides under logs and stones during the day and comes out after sunset in search of food, mainly insects and worms. It is quite harmless, and makes no attempt to bite when handled. It is sluggish, and shams dead when handled. The measurements of the largest specimen in my collection are as follows: snout to vent 185 mm.: tail 284 mm., and girth 38.50 mm. (Plate, figs. 1, 2).

I am thankful to Dr. A. S. Rao, Regional Botanist, Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Circle, Shillong, for a live specimen of limbless lizard for my study.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
EASTERN REGIONAL STATION,
SHILLONG-4 (INDIA),
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Tikader, B. K. 1968. "Observations on the Limbless Lizard *Ophisaurus Gracilis* (Gray) from Shillong, Assam." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 65, 233–233.

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