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## COMMUNAL EGG-LAYING IN THE THREE-LINED

### SKINK *Leiolopisma trilineata*

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On 24 January, 1977, I collected 64 eggs of *Leiolopisma trilineata* from a single nest on the west coast of Maria Island. The nest was located under a rock embedded in the surface of a grass verge with a northern aspect just above the supra-littoral zone. The eggs were closely-packed in the nest - a chamber at the end of a tunnel which terminated under the rock about 3 cm below the surface of the soil.

The mean egg length was 1.43 cm (1.20 cm to 1.71 cm) and the mean egg breadth was 1.03 cm (0.89 cm to 1.19 cm). The relationship between the length (x) and breadth (y) of eggs is described by  $y = .39x + 0.47$  ( $r = 0.65$ ,  $P \gg 0.01$ ).

At the time of collection (about noon), no Three-lined Skinks were seen in the vicinity of the nest, although a few Spotted Skinks *Leiolopisma ocellata* were observed in the area. The eggs were incubated at 30°C to 35°C in moist soil and hatched to confirm their identity. All but one of the eggs subsequently hatched - the first on 10 February and the last on 18 February, 1977. The lizards hatched by tearing their egg shells and escaping to the surface of the soil. Each animal possessed a bright orange throat-patch. Live hatchlings were released each day as they hatched; but twelve died from over-heating and were kept in 70% ethyl alcohol solution for subsequent study by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The mean length of the preserved specimens is 4.88 cm (4.60 cm to 5.05 cm) and the mean snout to vent length is 2.32 cm (2.20 cm to 2.35 cm). The number of rows of scales around the

abdomen of these specimens ranges from 26 to 29 but seven specimens carry 28 scale rows. The addressed legs either do not touch, or barely touch, and there are 18 to 21 smooth sub-digital lamellae on the fourth hind toes of these specimens. All the specimens carry five supraciliary scales over each eye. Other features of these specimens are consistent with those in the description of *L. trilineata* by Cogger (1975).

The largest number of eggs previously found in one nest of *L. trilineata* is 15 (mean clutch size 5.5 eggs) and females of this species were considered not to lay eggs communally (Rawlinson, 1974). *Leilopisma delicata* is the only other species of skink in Tasmania which is oviparous. This species is known as a communal egg-layer and nests containing up to 110 eggs of this species have been found (Rawlinson, 1974). It is also apparent that female *L. trilineata* lay their eggs communally but how commonly this occurs is not known. The present observations suggest that eleven or twelve females of *L. trilineata* may have laid all their eggs in the nest on Maria Island.

#### References

- Cogger, H.G. (1975). *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia*  
A.H. & A.W. Reed, Sydney, 584 pp.
- Rawlinson, P.A. (1974). Biogeography and Ecology of the  
Reptiles of Tasmania and the Bass Strait Area.  
*Biogeography and Ecology in Tasmania*. W.D. Williams (ed.)  
Dr. W. Junk, The Hague. p. 291-338

#### ADDITIONAL TYPE SHELLS FROM TASMANIA IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

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South Australian Museum,  
North Terrace, ADELAIDE.  
South Australia 5000

In an earlier paper (Macphail & Zeidler 1977), we listed type specimens forming part of the W.L. May Collection of Tasmanian shells in the South Australian Museum. Here, we complete the catalogue of type specimens of Mollusca from Tasmania held by this museum.

The specimens listed in Section A are from the Ashby and Verco Collections, for the most part shells collected in Tasmania but described by South Australian conchologists early this century. Some, e.g. May's species, were sent in exchange for South Australian shells. In most cases, the original label has been preserved. Otherwise the opinion concerning the type status of the shell(s) is that of Bernard C. Cotton, Curator of Molluscs at the South Australian Museum from 1934 to 1962.

The shells are arranged alphabetically in families under the original published name. The reputed type status of each shell is given, but, where dubious, is followed by a question-mark. Numbers in parentheses refer to May's (1921) *Checklist*. D registration numbers refer to the Register of Mollusca at this museum.

Additional "Cotypes" of species referred to in the earlier paper are listed in Section B.

### Section A

#### CREPIPODA

- Callistochitonidae     *Calliston antiquus mayi* Ashby, 1919.  
Holotype (248) D12550.
- Chitonidae            *Chiton lineolatus* Blainville, 1825.  
Part of type series? (237) D10237.  
*Chiton oruktus* Maughan, 1900. Paratype  
(266) D12383.
- Cryptoconchidae      *Acanthochiton macrocystialis* Ashby,  
1924. Holotype D10704.  
*Acanthochiton macrocystialis* Ashby,  
1924. Paratypes D12563.  
*Acanthochiton spongialis* Ashby, 1923.  
Holotype D13733.
- Ischnochitonidae     *Ischnochiton atkinsoni brunyensis*  
Ashby, 1920. Holotype ? (233) D11966.  
*Ischnochiton iredalei kingensis* Ashby  
& Hull, 1923. Holotype D13731.  
*Ischnochiton (Haploplax) mayi viridis*  
Ashby, 1920. Holotype (238) D11972.
- Lepidopleuridae      *Lepidopleurus profundus* May, 1923.  
Holotype + Paratype D12533.
- Plaxiphoridae        *Kopionella matthewi intermedia* Ashby,  
1927. Holotype ? D12115.  
*Kopionella tasmanica* Ashby, 1920.  
Holotype (251) D12156.

#### PELECYPODA

- Bullinidae            *Tasmadora sorellensis* Cotton, 1943.  
Holotype D14132.
- Mytilidae             *Arcoperna recens* Tate, 1896. Holotype.  
(63) D13040.  
*Arcoperna recens* Tate, 1896. Paratypes  
(63) D15607.
- Nuculidae             *Pronucula cancellata* Cotton, 1930.  
Paratypes D15021.  
*Pronucula mayi* Iredale, 1930. Holotype  
D15109.
- Philobryidae         *Philobrya fimbriata* Tate, 1898.  
Holotype (25) D13149.

#### GASTROPODA

- Ancylidae             *Gundlachia beddomei* Petterd, 1887.  
Holotype (890) D5370.  
*Gundlachia petterdi* Johnston, 1878.  
Holotype (890) D5371.

- Buccinidae** *Cantharus kingicola* Tate & May, 1900.  
Holotype ? (793) D15883.
- Charopidae** *Helix bischoffensis* Petterd, 1879.  
Holotype (933) D3251.
- Liottiidae** *Cyclostrema crebrisculpta* Tate, 1899.  
Holotype (356) D13402.  
*Cyclostrema porcellana* Tate & May, 1900.  
Holotype ? (362) D16062. Paratypes D15723.  
*Liottia densilineata* Tate, 1899.  
Holotype ? (376) D13412. Paratype D15722.  
*Liottia mayana* Tate, 1899. Holotype (377) D13413.
- Littorinidae** *Bembicium melanostoma* Gmelin, 1791.  
Neotype (407) D14590.
- Marginellidae** *Marginella erma* Cotton, 1944. Holotype D14986.  
*Marginella freycineti* May, 1916.  
Paratypes (661) D16088.  
*Marginella gracilis* May, 1911.  
Paratypes (677) D15815, D16087.  
*Marginella mayii* Tate, 1900.  
Holotype (678) D13523.  
*Marginella subauriculata* May, 1916.  
Paratypes (690) D16090, D16091.  
*Marginella thouinensis* May, 1916.  
Paratypes (692) D16089.
- Melanellidae** *Eulima mayii* Tate, 1900. Holotype ? (983) D13462.
- Olividae** *Ancillaria petterdi* Tate, 1893.  
Holotype ? (643) D14123.
- Omalogyridae** *Cyclostrema mayii* Tate, 1899. Holotype ? (383) D13426.
- Patellidae** *Nacella tasmanica* Tate & May, 1900.  
Syntypes ( --- ) D16068.
- Pyramidellidae** *Odotomia crassicosta* May, 1916.  
Paratype (961) D16072.  
*Odotomia mayii* Tate, 1898. Holotype (963) D13467.
- Rissoidae** *Rissoa pertranslucida* May, 1913.  
Paratype (?) D16064.  
*Rissoina semisculpta* Tate, 1899.  
Holotype (?) D14437.
- Skenopsidae** *Cyclostrema charopa* Tate, 1899.  
Holotype (367) D14111.
- Thaididae** *Purpura baileyana* Tenison-Woods, 1881.  
Holotype ? (856) D13489.
- Turbinidae** *Turbo simpsoni* Tenison-Woods, 1877.  
Paratypes (349) D9869.
- Turridae** *Drillia schoutanica* May, 1911. Paratypes (743) D16030.  
*Drillia subviridis* May, 1911. Paratype (738) D16029.

Section B

## GASTROPODA

- Capulidae *Roya devezus* May, 1961. (519)  
D16069.
- Liotiidae *Cirsonella translucida* May, 1916.  
(353) D16063.  
*Crossea consobrina* May, 1916. (569)  
D15719.
- Littorinidae *Risellopsis mutabilis* May, 1909. (409)  
D16065
- Marginellidae *Marginella attilabra* May, 1911. (647)  
D16086.  
*Marginella auriculata* May, 1916. (693)  
D16084.  
*Marginella caducocincta* May, 1916.  
(650) D16083.  
*Marginella connectans* May, 1911. (653)  
D16082.  
*Marginella gabrieli* May, 1911. (663)  
D16077.  
*Marginella gatliffi* May, 1911. (664)  
D16085.  
*Marginella hedleyi* May, 1911. (667).  
D16076.  
*Marginella inaequidens* May, 1913.  
(668) D16078.  
*Marginella indiscreta* May, 1911. (671)  
D16080.  
*Marginella schoutanica* May, 1913. (688)  
D16081.  
*Marginella vercoi* May, 1911. (696)  
D16079.
- Mitridae *Vexillum pumilo* May, 1916. (783)  
D16067.
- Pyramidellidae *Odostomia occultidens* May, 1916. (965)  
D16073.
- Pyrenidae *Nitromorpha multicostata* May, 1911.  
(834) D16075.
- Rissoidae *Aclis columnaria* May, 1911. (484)  
D15720.  
*Amphithalamus pertumida* May, 1916. (454)  
D16070.  
*Epigrus semicinctus* May, 1916. (465)  
D16071.  
*Rissoa schoutanica* May, 1913. (421)  
D16074.
- Scissurellidae *Scissurella ornata* May, 1909. (273)  
D9675.
- Trochidae *Euchelus profundior* May, 1916. (342)  
D9656.
- Turridae *Daphnella pagoda* May, 1911. (766).  
D1911.  
*Hemipleurotoma tasmanica* May, 1911. (714)  
D15921.

*Taraxis aculeata* May, 1916. (751)  
D16043.  
*Taraxis microscopia* May, 1916. (758)  
D16042.

## SCAPHAPODA

Siphonodentaliidae *Cadulus spretus* Tate & May, 1900.  
(1048) D16002.

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- Macphail, M.K. & Zeidler, W. 1977. Type shells from the May Collection in the South Australian Museum. *Tas. Nat.*, No. 50, 1-8.
- May, W.L. 1921. *A Checklist of the Mollusca of Tasmania*. 114 pp. Govt. Printer, Hobart.

MEASUREMENTS OF TREES AND SHRUBS IN WESTERN TASMANIA

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While working in West Coast bush in the past few years I have come across several impressively large specimens of trees and shrubs. A few of these I have measured and the details are presented here.

Note: G.B.H. = Girth at Breast Height, 1.3 m (4ft 3in) above ground level.

D.B.H. = Diameter at Breast Height, 1.3 m (4ft 3in) above ground level.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. Species     | <i>Phyllocladus aspleniifolius</i> , Celery-top Pine.  |
| Measurement    | G.B.H. 4.22m (13ft 10in)   |
| Location       | Near Luina, about halfway between the Whyte River and Betts Track and about 2km (1.5ml) south of the Corinna Road. |
| Date           | February, 1976.  |
| Accompanied by | M. Miller and R. Walters.  |
| 2. Species     | <i>Anodopetalum biglandulosum</i> , Horizontal.  |
| Measurements   | Height 17m (56ft)<br>D.B.H. 42cm (1ft 5in)   |
| Location       | Headwaters of the Spence River, about 1km (0.6ml) west of the Franklin River Road.                                 |

- Date September - November, 1976.  
Accompanied by P.J. Greatpatch.
3. Species *Cenarrhenes nitida*, Native Plum (Port Arthur Plum).  
Measurements Height 16m (52ft)  
D.B.H. 38cm (1ft 3in)  
Location Headwaters of the Spence River, about 1km (0.6ml) west of the Franklin River Road.  
Date September - November, 1976.  
Accompanied by P.J. Greatpatch.
4. Species *Acacia mucronata*, (Willow Wattle).  
Measurement D.B.H. 49cm (1ft 7in)  
Location On the Lefroy Ridge, about 0.5km (0.3ml) east of the Corinna Track, south of the Pieman River.  
Date September - November, 1976.  
Accompanied by P.J. Greatpatch.
5. Species *Monotoca glauca*.  
Measurements Height 10m (33ft)  
D.B.H. 30cm (1ft)  
Location On the Lefroy Ridge, about 0.5km (0.3ml) east of the Corinna Track, south of the Pieman River.  
Date September - November, 1976.  
Accompanied by P.J. Greatpatch.
6. Species *Athrosperma moschatum*, Sassafras.  
Measurements Height 36m (118ft)  
G.B.H. 3.27m (10ft 9in)  
Location Bernafai Ridge, about 3km (2ml) south-west of Corinna.  
Date January, 1977.  
Accompanied by S. Hesketh, J. Andrews and R. Reid.  
(Note: This particular specimen of Sassafras has enveloped a tree fern).
7. Species *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, Myrtle.  
Measurement G.B.H. 8.46m (27ft 9in)  
Location Bernafai Ridge, about 3km (2ml) south-west of Corinna.  
Date January, 1977.  
Accompanied by S. Hesketh, J. Andrews and R. Reid.

It may be of interest to note that the Myrtle with the greatest known girth (G.B.H. 13.72m or 45ft) is recorded in the Australian Forestry Journal of April, 1927. It was measured by Mr. J. Reed, Chairman of the National Parks Committee of Victoria, at the junction of Cumberland and Cora Lynn Creeks, near Marysville, in 1926. The tree was destroyed in the 1939 bushfires.

The above measurements are presented with the intention of adding to the nucleus of reliable measurements of trees and shrubs already published. It is highly likely there are still many specimens of the species mentioned above with greater dimensions than those recorded, which await accurate measurement.