

Phyllodactylus palmeus Dixon

Dixon (1968) described this gecko on the basis of 19 specimens Meyer and Wilson collected on Roatán and Guanaja. We also collected a specimen on Utila, and others were seen but escaped. The Utila specimen was caught on a tree in the forest during the evening. The morning of 13 August 1969 we saw a young specimen under a pile of dead coconut palm fronds, and the evening of 14 August spotted two adults on the trunks of coconut palm trees near the main airstrip.

On Roatán in 1969 we made observations on the habitat preferences of this gecko (additional information is provided by Dixon 1968). One specimen was shot at night on the side of a palm tree along a stream and another at night on the bank of a roadcut. During the day, specimens were taken from the axils of the stems of coconut palm fronds on the beach.

Our observations indicate that *P. palmeus* is found in a number of habitats ranging from coconut palm trees on the beach to thorn palms in the forest interior. A basic requirement seems to be suitably darkened hiding places. One of the principal diurnal retreats of this lizard is the hollow interior of standing, dead palm trees, a habitat shared with the smaller *Sphaerodactylus rosaurae*.

Egg clutches, in addition to being laid in rotting palm stumps as reported by Dixon (1968), are also laid on the inner side of axils of coconut palm leaves.

On Utila this lizard is known as the "chumpatia" (=stump-tail?).

The single specimen available from Utila (UF 28398) has a snout-vent length of 71.4 mm (tail missing), approximately 60 transverse ventral scales from throat to anus, 46 tubercles in a paravertebral row from rear of head to base of tail, two postmentals in contact with only first part of infralabials, 21 interorbital scales, 29 longitudinal rows of ventral scales, 7 scales bordering postmentals, 9 scales bordering posterior edge of internasals, 14 scales between nostril and eye, 14 lamellae on fourth toe, 8 tubercles across base of tail, and 6 supralabials to a point below center of eye. The coloration is as described by Dixon (1968). All scutellational counts fall within the ranges given by Dixon for *palmeus*, including those features that distinguish *palmeus* from its closest relative, *P. insularis* from Half Moon Cay, British Honduras.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.—Isla de Utila: Utila (UF 28398). Isla de Roatán: 0.5 km N Roatán (LSUMZ 16986-92); 3 km N Roatán (LSUMZ 16993-94); 1 km N Roatán (LACM 38514-15); Roatán (LSUMZ 22335-37); 3 mi W Roatán (LSUMZ 22350-51); near Roatán (UF 28458, 28541-42); near French Harbor (UF 28560-61). Isla de Guanaja: SE shore opposite Guanaja (LACM 38516-20; LSUMZ 22402-03).