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HEMIDACTYLUS PLATYCEPHALUS (Flat-headed Tropical House Gecko). **REGIONAL INTEGUMENTARY LOSS**. Regional integumentary loss (RIL, *sensu* Bauer et al. 1989 J. Exp. Biol. 145:79–102), an anti-predator strategy complementary to tail autotomy, is reported for at least 10 genera of gekkonids (Bauer et al., *op. cit.*) and seems to evolve mainly in insular contexts (Bauer and Russell 1992. Ethol. Ecol. Evol. 4:343–358). Here, we add *Hemidactylus* to the list of genera that display this behavior and comment on the insular context.

During a field trip to the Comoro Islands (West Indian Ocean) in October–November 2003, MAC and DJH collected more than 50 *Hemidactylus* specimens by hand for genetic analysis from the four main islands (Mayotte, Grande Comore, Anjouan, and Moheli). More than the 90% of *H. platycephalus* spontaneously and systematically released part of the skin when handled (even if gently), without bleeding or any other apparent damage. In a second trip to Tanzania in October 2004, DJH and SR recorded similar observations for the same species in Zanzibar, Pemba, and the Tanzanian coast. Both insular and mainland populations of *H. platycephalus* showed RIL and genetic analysis did not reveal evidence for an insular origin of this species (Rocha et al. 2005. Mol. Phyl. Evol., in press). Remarkably, other members of this genus collected in similar numbers at the same sites (*H. brooki*, *H. frenatus*, and *H. mercatorius* in the Comoros; *H. mercatorius* in Zanzibar, Pemba, and mainland Tanzania) did not display such strategy. Because the distinction was congruent with the estimates of relationships based on DNA sequence data (Rocha et al., *op. cit.*), RIL could be used as another character to identify *H. platycephalus*, at least in this area. To our knowledge, this is the first report of RIL in *Hemidactylus*, although the skin of *H. fasciatus* has been described as thin and weak similar to that of gekkonids for which RIL has been reported (Bauer et al., *op. cit.*).

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