

Ophisops leschenaultii lankae (DERANIYAGALA, 1953)*Lacerta leschenaultii* MILNE-EDWARDS, 1829*Cabrita brunnea* GRAY, 1838*Calosaura leschenaultii* – DUMÉRIL & BIBRON, 1839*Cabrita leschenaultii* – BLANFORD, 1870; SMITH, 1935*Cabrita leschenaultii lankae* – DERANIYAGALA, 1953**Type locality (subspecies):** probably Mullaittivu & Jaffna, Northern province, Sri Lanka (as 'Ceylon')

E: Leschenault's Snake-eye Lizard

S: Panduru katussa/Sarpakshi katussa

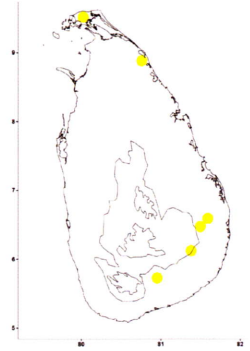
**Range:** Subspecies endemic to Sri Lanka. Species found in India and Sri Lanka.**Distribution in SL:** Confined to dry lowland savannah of south-eastern Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan records are from Galoya NP, Udawalawa NP, Nilgala, Monaragala, Mullaittivu and Jaffna.**Diagnosis:** Distinguished from other Sri Lankan *Ophisops* by the combination of following characters: dorsal cephalic shields not carinate but feebly rugose; nostril between two nasal scales; only one post nasal; supralabials strongly carinate; prefrontals not separated by an interprefrontal; interparietal does not separate parietals; an occipital present; dorsals feebly acuminate and more-or-less same sized as laterals; the two median longitudinal rows of ventrals are feebly enlarged than other rows of ventrals; 14–15 femoral pores; adults with a lateral black band which can be a made of separate blotches in juveniles.**Length:** SVL 35–50 mm; TL 70–80 mm. They are smaller than the Indian form.**Natural History:** This is a savannah species that is normally found in or near rock outcrops within grasslands. A day-active species which very quickly hides under rocks, leaf litter or at the base of grass tussocks when approached. Insectivorous, the diet mainly comprises flies, ants and beetles. Adult males may be territorial and also compete for shaded places with other males and sympatric skinks. When on heated rocks the limbs are lifted in sequence and held perpendicular to the ground, body is arched and the tail is lifted to minimize contact with the surface (DE SILVA *et al.*, 2004b).**Status:** IUCN SL 2007 – VU; FFPA – Pr; CITES – Not listed.



Fig. 208 – *Ophisops leschenaultii lankae*: A, B: lateral and dorsal aspects of adult male; C: dorsolateral aspects of juvenile (Monaragala). All photos: S. KARUNARATHNA.