

**A RANGE EXTENSION FOR THE MARBLED VELVET GECKO *OEDURA*
MARMORATA IN SOUTH WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES**

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I recently took part in a field survey with the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, at Scotia Sanctuary in south western New South Wales. My role was to identify and record the species of reptile and amphibian that occurred within the study sites.

At the sanctuary was an album containing photographs of various species of reptiles that had supposedly been found within the sanctuary. Among the photographs were both adults and juvenile Marbled Velvet Geckos *Oedura marmorata*. As the sanctuary has recently changed hands I was unable to confirm that the photographs were of local animals.

At a site near the main residence (37°53.16'S145°02.77'E) with fallen and live trees (*Casurina pauper*) with loose but attached bark, and an understorey of live and dead *Triodia irritans* clumps, I located an adult female *O. marmorata* on 13 April 2004 while spotlighting. The gecko was found at 1945 hrs on the vertical trunk of a *C. pauper* approximately 650 mm above the ground. The ambient air temperature was approximately 24° C and the sky covered with patchy cloud; the moon had not yet risen. The animal (Figure 1) was photographed and released. Later that night (approximately 2230 hrs) a second individual was located on the verandah of one of the huts.

The closest NSW record for *O. marmorata* is Ivanhoe (33°09'S 144°07'E) (Swan, 1990; Swan *et al.*, 2004), approximately 300 km ENE of Scotia Sanctuary. There is also an isolated population at Mt Serle (30°32'S 136°53'E) in the northern Flinders Ranges, South Australia (Miller, 1980), approximately 380 km NW of Scotia Sanctuary. It is unusual that they have not been recorded in the region previously, as Danggali Conservation Park nearby has been extensively surveyed (Morley & Morley, 1984).

REFERENCES

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Caption for figure

Figure 1. *Oedura marmorata* from Scotia Sanctuary, NSW. (Photograph: S. Eipper)

