

Mites of Gecko



Three Species of Ectoparasite Mites (Acari: Pterygosomatidae) Infested Geckos in Indonesia

[TARUNI SRI PRAWASTI](#), [ACHMAD FARAJALLAH](#), [RIKA RAFFIUDIN](#)

Abstract

Limited data is hitherto available on the diversity and dispersal of parasitic mites of geckos in Indonesia. Here, we collected three species of geckos, namely *Cosymbotus platyurus*, *Hemidactylus frenatus*, and *H. garnotii* throughout Indonesia to study the distribution and diversity of its parasitic mites. We conducted detail morphological analysis of the mites using whole mount polyvinyl lactophenol and scanning electron microscope preparation. Three species of ectoparasite mites from genus *Geckobia* were identified in a total of 221 individuals out of 448 geckos collected from 25 sites in Indonesia. Two species were *G. glebosum* and *G. bataviensis*, and the other one was designated as *Geckobia* sp 1. Based on our result, the three mites species were spread randomly and live sympatrically. The *G. bataviensis* mite showed the widest distribution, because it was found in almost all gecko collection sites, hence the most cosmopolitan mites. We also found that *C. platyurus* gecko had the lowest mite prevalence which might due to the fact that it has the least number of skin folds, an important site for mite protection. This result implies that further research on the relationship of anatomy of gecko skin with chelicera and claw structure of mites is necessary in the future.