

Project Update: September 2010

The second survey in a longer-term study of reptile diversity at Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary (PSWS) was undertaken by Neang Thy in September 2010, with assistance from two MSc students from the Royal University of Phnom Penh. The purpose of the wider study is to collect data to assess altitudinal and seasonal variations in reptile occurrence at Phnom Samkos, so as to prioritise important areas for conservation within the wildlife sanctuary. Sampling methods and effort in the field survey were standardised to allow comparison with results from the previous survey. Twenty-nine reptiles and 11 amphibians were recorded during the latest survey. Of these, one species of sun beam snake (*Xenopeltis unicolor*) was recorded for the first time from PSWS, while one caecilian (*Ichthyophis* sp.) represents the second record for the genus at the site. As the previous record for *Ichthyophis* represents a new species to science (and is currently being described), the latest record is of considerable scientific interest. Preliminary data generated by the study so far suggests that the diversity of the reptiles in lowland areas may be greater than that of higher elevations.



Left: A small scale water skink. Right: Cardamom banded Gecko.