

On the distribution of two north Australian agamid lizards, *Chelosania brunnea* Gray and *Chlamydosaurus kingii* Gray — There are only two records of *Chelosania brunnea* from the Dampier Peninsula (Storr & Johnstone, 1983. *Wildl. Res. Bull. West. Aust.* 11:71-72). The first in April 1977 at Martins Well, and the second in September 1978 "near Cape Boileau". Storr, Smith & Johnstone (1983. *Lizards of Western Australia II: Dragons and Monitors*. W.A. Museum.) give its distribution as south to Coulomb Point in this region.

In November 1982 and again in September 1983 I visited Broome. During the first visit, on 26 November, I collected this species in the grounds of the Japanese Cemetery at Broome. It was at 4pm during a thunderstorm, and the lizard was in a small depression at the base of a large tree. The depression may have been the result of a covered oviposition site, although no attempt was made at the time to excavate this. The lizard was photographed and released near the capture site.

Although Storr & Johnstone (*loc. cit.*) list *Chlamydosaurus kingii* as uncommon on the Peninsula, I observed several on both trips (4 in 1982 & 7 in 1983). In all cases these were observed as active or killed on and near the road. They were sighted from 20 kilometres north-east of Broome to 60 kilometres south of the Broome-Great Northern Highway junction (to lat. 18°15'S). Only one of the eleven lizards observed was south of the Roebuck Plains. Storr *et al.* (*loc. cit.*) list this species as being found south almost to Broome. The lack of records for it on the Peninsula may be attributed to a combination of both the locals' *blasé* attitude towards this large lizard, and the possibility that it may have only a brief intermittent period of seasonal activity.

I thank Harry Ehmann for his comments on these notes.

— BRIAN BUSH. P.O. Box 192, Esperance, 6450.