**Gekkonidae**

***Phelsuma* guimbeaui** Mertens **New island record**

This is the second species of this genus to become established on Oahu. Walsh (1990) noted that *P. laticauda* had become established by the late 1970s. The first recorded capture of *P. guimbeaui* was in 1984 from Kailua (BPBM). The next recorded capture was not until 1992 (when the Honolulu Zoo's records show that several specimens were obtained from Kailua), and then again in 1994. We verified the presence of *P. guimbeaui* in the Kailua locality in November 1995. At least 3 individuals were seen using the top of a fence as a basking site and "freeway" connecting sections of a tall hedge. Although no direct evidence of breeding was found, the persistence of this species through at least a 10 year period despite active collecting by local children (according to area residents), and the successful breeding of the species at the Honolulu Zoo, are convincing evidence that it has become established in the area.

*P. guimbeaui* is native to the island of Mauritius where it lives in large colonies on huge forest trees (McKeown 1993). It is a very striking gecko, bright green with red-orange lines and spots running from head to tail. In the right light, the orange is almost neon in its intensity. Its common name is the Mauritius Forest Day Gecko.

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## Fibropapillomas in Hawaiian Sea Turtles

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A circumtropical/subtropical panzootic of fibropapillomas has occurred in the last few years in green sea turtles, *Chelonia mydas* (Linnaeus) (Williams *et al*. 1994). The earliest records for fibropapillomas in the Pacific was in 1958 (Hendrickson 1958, Balazs

& Pooley 1991). These tumors were described in the Atlantic 20 years previously (Smith & Coates 1938). Since no earlier records were known from the Pacific, there was some question whether fibropapillomas occurred in the Pacific when they were first described in the Atlantic. Fibropapillomas occur largely in green turtles, rarely in a few other sea turtles, and have not been reported from hawksbills, *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Linnaeus) (Williams *et al*. 1994). We report here an ca. 10-yr earlier Pacific record and non-histologically confirmed records in the hawksbill.

**Materials and Methods**

We examined histological slides of fibropapillomas, field notes, and photographs prepared in 1952 by Prof. Charles E. Cutress. We received reports of fibropapilloma-appearing conditions from field researchers. Samples from a biopsy of 1 hawksbill and a necropsy of a second specimen were preserved in 10% histological grade formalin and deposited in the Registry of Tumors of Lower Animals (RTLA).

**Earliest Pacific Record of Fibropapillomas**

The histological microscope slides prepared and stained by Prof. Cutress that one of us (EHW) examined in 1991 appeared to represent fibropapillomas. These slides could not be located after the death of Prof. Cutress in 1993. Three photographic slides in Cutress's materials dated 1952 appear to be of a green turtle with fibropapillomas (Fig. 1). Cutress recalled in 1991, and his notes confirmed, that green turtles with fibropapillomas in Hawaii had been reported to him since the late 1940s. Thus, these fibropapillomas occurred in the Pacific ca. 10 years after they were described in the Atlantic. This suggests that fibropapillomas probably occurred circumtropically/subtropically in the green turtle when this condition was first described and did not spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific after 1938.

**Presumed Fibropapillomas in Hawksbill Turtles**

We found internal tumors in green turtles that had external fibropapillomas (Williams *et al*. 1994). These internal tumors technically cannot be called fibropapillomas (multiple mature granulomas) but appear quite similar. We found the same internal tumors in a hawksbill (RTLA 5698, Table 1). We have received reports of 4 hawksbills with growths observed in Hawaii, Florida, and the Caribbean that appeared to be fibropapillomas but were not collected (Table 1). These similar tumors and observations of presumed fibropapillomas suggest that this disease will eventually be histologically confirmed in the hawksbill. Fibropapillomas on hawksbills should be sampled by biopsy or necropsy, preserved in 10% formalin, and sent to the RTLA for confirmation. We emphasize that proper samples are required, because 3 of the 4 observers of hawksbills (Table 1) had handling permits and could have taken samples if they had known the importance of histological confirmation.

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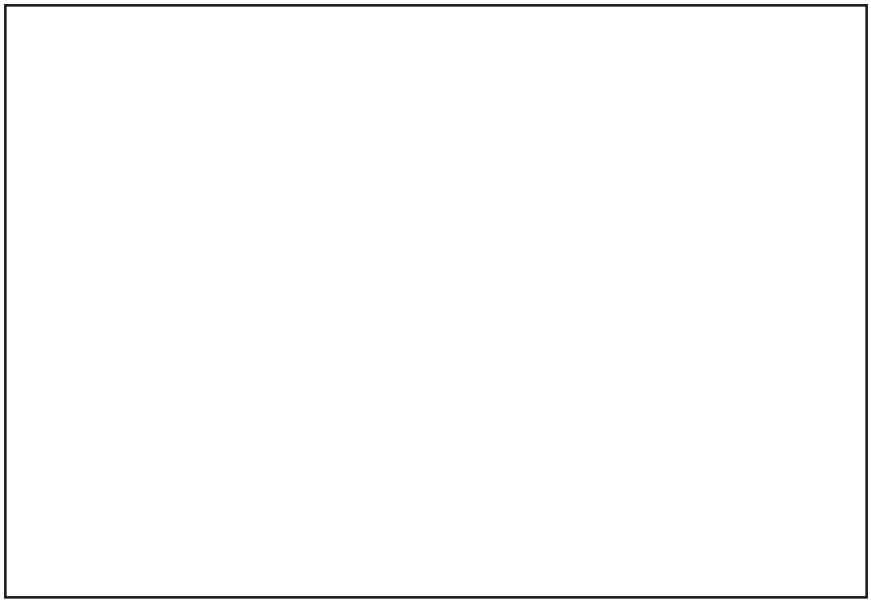

**Fig. 1.** Green turtle, *Chelonia mydas,* with fibropapillomas collected from Waikiki, Oahu, Hawaii, in 1952. (Photo Charles Cutress)

Puerto Rico, and Richard K. Wallace, Alabama-Mississippi Sea Grant for observations of sea turtles with tumors; John C. Harshbarger, RTLA, for preparing and depositing specimens; and Andrew Bruckner for preparing photograph copies.

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**Table 1**. Sea turtles with fibropapillomas and other tumor-like conditions.

| Locality | Type of Report[1] | Source |
|---|---|---|
| | *Chelonia mydas*, green turtle | |
| Oahu, Hawaii | M | Cutress pers. comm.[2] |
| Waikiki, Oahu, Hawaii | H | present paper |
| | *Eretmochelys imbricata*, hawksbill[3] | |
| Waikiki, Oahu, Hawaii | M | Cutress pers. comm.[2] |
| south Florida, USA | M | Pinto pers. comm.[2] |
| eastern Puerto Rico | M | Lee pers. comm.[2] |
| St. Croix, USVI | M | Hillis pers. comm.[2] |
| Playa Sardinera, Mona Island | T[4] | present paper |
| National Aquarium, Dominican Republic | T[5] | present paper |
| | *Caretta caretta*, loggerhead | |
| St. Petersburg, Florida, USA | M | Wallace pers. comm.[2] |

[1]Histologically confirmed fibropapillomas (H), observed lesions which morphologically appeared similar to fibropapillomas (M), and other tumor-like conditions (T).

[2]Prof. Charles E. Cutress, Dept. Marine Sciences, University of Puerto Rico, pers. comm; Z. Hillis, National Park Service, pers. comm.; Nancy M. Lee, Department of Defense Schools, pers. comm.; Benito Pinto-Rodríguez, Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; R. K. Wallace, Alabama-Mississippi Sea Grant, pers. comm..

[3]Turtle species not reported to have fibropapillomas

[4]Multiple mature granulomas in internal organs, but not fibropapillomas, RTLA 5698

[5]Parakeratosis, not a neoplasm, RTLA 5396