



A new species of *Cyrtodactylus* Gray, 1827 (Squamata: Gekkonidae) in Phu Quoc National Park, Kien Giang Biosphere Reserve, Southwestern Vietnam

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Abstract

A new crevice dwelling species, *Cyrtodactylus phuquocensis* **sp. nov.** from Phu Quoc National Park on Phu Quoc Island in Kien Giang Biosphere Reserve in southwestern Vietnam is differentiated from all other species by the following combination of characteristics: SVL 62.2–85.8 mm; no precloacal groove; 7–9 precloacal pores arranged in an angular series; a series of enlarged femoral scales contacting a wide patch of enlarged precloacal scales; 2–5 intersuparanasals in contact with rostrum; 16–18 weakly keeled, longitudinal rows of tubercles on body; 38–43 transverse rows of ventral scales between ventrolateral folds; and dorsal caudal tubercles extending 57.8–75% down length of tail. This species most closely resembles *C. intermedius* Smith, 1917 to which it was previously referred. The description of this species has elevated the number of endemic species of gekkonids of this region to eight within the last three years.

Key words: *Cyrtodactylus*, *Cyrtodactylus phuquocensis*, *Cyrtodactylus intermedius*, Gekkonidae, new species, Southwestern Vietnam, crevice

Introduction

The gekkonid fauna of Vietnam is diverse and growing rapidly with 29 new species having been discovered and described within the last nine years (Ziegler *et al.* 2002; Ziegler *et al.* 2010; Das 2004; Rösler *et al.* 2005; Nguyen *et al.* 2006; Grismer & Ngo 2007; Heidrich *et al.* 2007; Hoang *et al.* 2007; Orlov *et al.* 2007; Nazarov *et al.* 2008; Ngo 2008; Ngo & Bauer, 2008; Ngo *et al.* 2008; Ngo & Ziegler 2009; Ngo *et al.* 2009; Ngo & Gamble 2010; Ngo & Chan, 2010; Ngo & Grismer 2010 *in press*; Rösler *et al.* 2008; Rösler *et al.* 2010; Geissler *et al.* 2009; Grismer *et al.* 2010 & Nguyen 2010). Additional surveys have reconfirmed the presence of *Cyrtodactylus intermedius* Smith in the Bay Nui Mountain hills in An Giang province (Ngo & Grismer 2006), correcting the erroneous identification of Bobrov (1992, 1995), Darevsky and Szczerbak (1997), and Nguyen *et al.* (2005). Isolated hills and offshore islands in the northern portion of the Gulf of Thailand associated with the Cardamom Mountain massif of southern Cambodia and Thailand and extending into Rach Gia Bay off southern Vietnam are proving to be regions of rich gekkonid diversity (Grismer & Ngo 2007; Grismer *et al.* 2010; Ngo 2008). Since 1997, three new species of *Cyrtodactylus* and five new species of *Cnemaspis* (Darevsky & Szczerbak 1997; Grismer & Ngo 2007; Grismer *et al.* 2010; Ngo 2008; Ngo *et al.* 2008) have been described from these areas. We report here another new insular species of gekkonid from Phu Quoc Island in the Kien Giang Biosphere Reserve. We assign this population to the genus *Cyrtodactylus* being that it lacks eyelids, has vertical pupils and inflected digits, but because individuals of this population share a unique combination of characters that differentiate it from all other *Cyrtodactylus* it is described herein as a new species.