



A new species of *Cyrtodactylus* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from northern Laos

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Abstract

We describe a new species of the gekkonid genus *Cyrtodactylus* from northern Laos, based on four specimens from Luang Nam Tha Province. *Cyrtodactylus wayakonei* **sp. n.** is distinguished from the remaining bent-toed-geckos by the combination of the following characters: snout-vent length up to 90 mm; 7–8 supralabials; 9–10 infralabials; rostrum bearing smooth scales; 34–45 scales between fifth supralabials; dorsal tubercles smooth or slightly keeled; 17–19 dorsal tubercle rows; ventrolateral folds slightly developed, with large tubercles; 31–35 ventrals; 85–98 scales around midbody; 151–163 scales between mental and cloacal slit; 6–8 precloacal pores in both sexes; precloacal groove lacking; enlarged femoral scales absent; femoral pores lacking; subcaudals somewhat enlarged, broadened; tail tubercles flat, smooth; head and dorsum with blotched to reticulated pattern.

Key words: Squamata, Gekkonidae, *Cyrtodactylus wayakonei* **sp. n.**; taxonomy; Laos

Introduction

The genus *Cyrtodactylus* is the most speciose group of gekkonids to date (Kluge 2001). Its widespread radiation comprises tropical South Asia, Indochina, the Philippines, the Indo-Australian Archipelago, and the Solomon Islands in the East (Bauer & Henle 1994). New species are regularly being described (e.g., Bauer 2002, 2003, Bauer *et al.* 2002, 2003, Günther & Rösler 2002, David *et al.* 2004, Pauwels *et al.* 2004, Batuwita & Bahir 2005, Grismer 2005, Grismer & Leong 2005, Grismer & Norhayati 2008, Grismer *et al.* 2008, Kraus & Allison 2006, Youmans & Grismer 2006, Rösler *et al.* 2007, Hayden *et al.* 2008, Rösler & Glaw 2008, Chan & Ahmad 2010, Ngo & Chan 2010, Shi & Zhao 2010, Sumontha *et al.* 2010, Welton *et al.* 2009, 2010, Ziegler *et al.* 2010). One of the regions of greatest discovery of new *Cyrtodactylus* has been Vietnam. Until 1997, only three species had been recorded for the country, *C. condorensis*, *C. intermedius*, and *C. irregularis*. Since then 18 additional species have been described, namely *C. badenensis*, *C. cattienensis*, *C. caovansungi*, *C. chauquangensis*, *C. cryptus*, *C. eisenmanae*, *C. grimeri*, *C. hontreensis*, *C. huynhi*, *C. nigriocularis*, *C. paradoxus*, *C. phongnhakebangensis*, *C. phuquocensis*, *C. pseudoquadrivirgatus*, *C. roesleri*, *C. takouensis*, *C. yangbayensis*, and *C. ziegleri* (Ziegler *et al.* 2002, Nguyen *et al.* 2006, 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, Rösler *et al.* 2008, Geissler *et al.* 2009, Ngo & Chan 2010, Ngo *et al.* 2010, Ziegler *et al.* 2010). Furthermore, additional species descriptions from Vietnam are in progress. From Laos, which borders Vietnam to the west, only three species of *Cyrtodactylus* have been recorded to date, *C. buchardi*, *C. interdigitalis*, and *C. jarujini*, pointing to the generally poor knowledge of its herpetofauna (David *et al.* 2004, Stuart 1999, Teynié 2004, Teynié *et al.* 2004). Recent field research in Laos has led to new *Cyrtodactylus* records, including a new species from the North of the country which we here describe.