



## A new species of karst dwelling *Cyrtodactylus* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from northwestern Laos

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### Abstract

We describe a new species of the gekkonid genus *Cyrtodactylus* from northwestern Laos, based on a recent collection from Vientiane Province. *Cyrtodactylus pageli* **sp. n.** is distinguished from the remaining bent-toed-geckos by the combination of the following characters: snout-vent length up to 81.8 mm; 9–12 supralabials; 9 infralabials; 9–14 rows of dorsal tubercles; no distinct lateral body fold; 41–46 midbody ventrals; precloacal pores present in both sexes (males 4, females 5 or 6); no precloacal groove; femoral scales not distinctly enlarged; no femoral pores; subdigital lamellae under the fourth toe 19–26; subcaudals transversally enlarged; dark nuchal band, followed by a transversal row of dark neck blotches (rarely forming an additional transversal neck band) in-between nuchal band and first body band; 5 in part irregular dark dorsal bands between limb insertions plus transversal band between hind limbs; tail with banded pattern.

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

### Introduction

*Cyrtodactylus* is the most speciose genus of gekkonids to date (e.g., Kluge 2001). The 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 *et al.* 2010; Chan & Norhayati 2010; Grismer *et al.* 2010; Ngo & Chan 2010; Ngo & Grismer 2010; Ngo & Pauwels 2010; Ngo *et al.* 2010; Nguyen *et al.* 2010; Shi & Zhao 2010; Sumontha *et al.* 2010; Ziegler *et al.* 2010). Vietnam has been one of the regions of the most numerous discoveries of new *Cyrtodactylus*. Until 1997, only three species had been recorded for the country, *C. condorensis* (Smith, 1921), *C. intermedius* (Smith, 1917), and *C. irregularis* (Smith, 1921). Since then 19 additional species have been described, namely *C. badenensis* Nguyen, Orlov & Darevsky, 2006, *C. bichnganae* Ngo, 2010, *C. cattienensis* Geissler, Nazarov, Orlov, Böhme, Phung, Nguyen & Ziegler, 2009, *C. caovansungi* Orlov, Nguyen, Nazarov, Ananjeva & Nguyen, 2007, *C. chauquangensis* Hoang, Orlov, Ananjeva, Johns, Hoang & Dau, 2007, *C. cryptus* Heidrich, Rösler, Vu, Böhme & Ziegler, 2007, *C. eisenmanae* Ngo, 2008, *C. grimeri* Ngo, 2008, *C. hontreensis* Ngo, Grismer & Grismer, 2008, *C. huynhi* Ngo & Bauer, 2008, *C. nigriocularis* Nguyen, Orlov & Darevsky, 2006, *C. paradoxus* (Darevsky & Szczerbak, 1997), *C. phongnhakebangensis* Ziegler, Rösler, Herrmann & Vu, 2003, *C. phuquocensis* Ngo, Grismer & Grismer, 2010, *C. pseudoquadrivirgatus* Rösler, Vu, Nguyen, Ngo & Ziegler, 2008, *C. roesleri* Ziegler, Nazarov, Orlov, Nguyen, Vu, Dang, Dinh & Schmitz, 2010, *C. takouensis* Ngo & Bauer, 2008, *C. yangbayensis* Ngo & Chan, 2010, and *C. ziegleri* Nazarov, Orlov, Nguyen & Ho, 2008 (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 & Grismer 2010, Ngo *et al.* 2010, Ziegler *et al.* 2010). From Laos, bordering Vietnam to its East,