



Another new *Cyrtodactylus* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park, central Truong Son, Vietnam

ASTRID HEIDRICH^{1,2}, HERBERT RÖSLER³, VU NGOC THANH⁴, WOLFGANG BÖHME¹ & THOMAS ZIEGLER^{2,5}

¹Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Adenauerallee 160, D-53113 Bonn, Germany

²AG Zoologischer Garten Köln, Riehler Straße 173, D-50735 Köln, Germany. E-mail: tziegler@zoo-koeln.de

³Staatliche Naturhistorische Sammlungen Dresden, Museum für Tierkunde, Forschungsstelle, A.B.-Meyer-Bau, Königsbrücker Landstr. 159, D-01109 Dresden, Germany

⁴Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (CRES), Vietnam National University, Hanoi, University of Science, Faculty of Biology, Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Zoological Museum, 334 Nguyen Trai Str., Thanh Xuan, Hanoi, Vietnam

⁵Corresponding author

Abstract

A new species of *Cyrtodactylus* is described from the Truong Son (Annamite mountain range) of Quang Binh Province in central Vietnam. It is characterized by 3–5 transversal dorsal bands between the limb insertions, a neckband reaching the posterior margin of eye, 19–20 irregular longitudinal rows of dorsal tubercles, forelimbs with tubercles, 47–50 longitudinal rows of ventrals at midbody, 9–11 precloacal pores in an angular series in males and 16–27 enlarged precloacal scales in both sexes, 20–23 lamellae below the 4th toe, a segmented tail, and lacking of a distinct ventrolateral fold, a precloacal groove and femoral pores, as well as transversally enlarged subcaudal plates. The new species is known only from the karst forests of Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park. Preliminary data on its natural history are provided.

Key words: Central Vietnam, Sauria, *Cyrtodactylus cryptus* sp. n., morphology, taxonomy, natural history

Introduction

Recent herpetological investigations have shown the central Truong Son (Annamite mountain range) to house a very rich amphibian and reptilian species diversity with new records and new taxa regularly being published (e. g., Bain & Nguyen 2004, Bain et al. 2003, 2006, Orlov 2005, Orlov et al. 2004, 2006a, 2006b, Stuart & Bain 2005, Stuart et al. 2005, Ziegler et al. 2004, 2005, 2006). For squamate reptiles, five new species (including one new genus) of snakes (*Amphiesma andreae* Ziegler & Le; 2006, *Boiga bourreti* Tillack et al., 2004; *Calamaria thanhi* Ziegler & Le, 2005; *Triceratolepidophis sieversorum* Ziegler et al., 2000; *Trimeresurus truongsoneensis* Orlov et al., 2004) and four new species of lizards (*Cyrtodactylus phongnhakebangensis* Ziegler et al., 2002, *Gekko scientiaventura* Rösler et al., 2004, *Leptoseps tetradactylus* Darevsky & Orlov, 2005, *Tropidophorus noggei* Ziegler et al., 2005) have been described in the last eight years from the Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park, located in Quang Binh Province near the Laos border (Darevsky & Orlov 2005, Orlov et al. 2004, Rösler et al. 2004, Tillack et al. 2004, Ziegler & Le 2005, 2006, Ziegler et al. 2000, 2002, 2005). As part of recent ecological studies on some poorly known lizard species of the genera *Cyrtodactylus*, *Gekko* and *Tropidophorus* in the karst forests of Phong Nha - Ke Bang, a bent-toed gecko came to our attention that was formerly overlooked. At first glance, it appeared similar to the syntopic *C. phongnhakebangensis*, but on closer examination differed in pattern and squamation features. Further comparisons with the *Cyrtodactylus* species known from Vietnam and adjacent countries revealed it to be a new species, which we describe below.