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A new species of *Cnemaspis* Strauch 1887 (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Selangor, Peninsular Malaysia

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Abstract

A new species of gekkonid lizard of the genus *Cnemaspis* Strauch 1887 is described from the state of Selangor, Peninsular Malaysia. *Cnemaspis flavigaster* **sp nov.** differs from all other species of *Cnemaspis* in Peninsular Malaysia by having the following combination of characters: maximum SVL of 50.1 mm, a series of distinct black dorsal spots, 29–34 subdigital lamellae on 4th toe, no femoral pores, smooth ventral scales, median subcaudal scales not enlarged or keeled, and an orange belly. This brings the total number of species of *Cnemaspis* in Peninsular Malaysia to nine.

Key words: Selangor, Malaysia, gekkonid, *Cnemaspis flavigaster*

Introduction

At least 23 nominal species of the gekkonid genus *Cnemaspis* Strauch 1887 occur in Southeast Asia (Grismer & Chan 2008). Within this region, the genus extends from Vietnam (Grismer & Ngo 1997), Cambodia (Grismer *et al*. 2008), southeastern Thailand (Bauer & Das 1998), the Malay Peninsula and its associated islands (Das & Leong 2004; Das & Grismer 2003; Grismer & Chan 2008; Grismer & Das 2006) to Singapore, Sumatra, Borneo and their associated islands (Das 2005). *Cnemaspis* are distinguished from the other gekkotan genera by having broad, flattened heads; large, somewhat forward and upwardly directed eyes; round pupils; flattened bodies; long, widely splayed limbs; and long, inflected digits. While most species are saxicolous, some have adapted to living on trees and among vegetation.

There are at least eight species of *Cnemaspis* in Peninsular Malaysia and its associated islands (see appendix in Grismer & Chan 2008) and others are still being described (Grismer *et al*. in prep.). Of these eight species, Boulenger (1912) reported *C. affinis* from the Batu Caves, Selangor. Dring (1979) reported *C. kumpoli* from Kaki Bukit, Perlis along the Thai-Malaysian border and considered Boulenger's (1912) record of *C. affinis* from the Batu Caves, approximately 420 km to the south in the state of Selangor, to be *C. kumpoli* as well. He indicated that the Batu Caves specimen differed from *C. kumpoli* from Kaki Bukit and the holotype from Khao Chao, Trang Province, Thailand, in size, dorsal tuberculation, number of ventral scales, and color pattern, and stated that he referred to this specimen as *C. kumpoli* only out of convenience. We examined detailed photographs of this specimen (BM 1898.9.22.216) and found it to be the same as a series of *Cnemaspis* sp. collected during April 2008 at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Kepong, Selangor less than 5 km northwest of Batu Caves (Fig. 1). Based on differences in pattern, coloration, scalation and tuberculation, this series could not be assigned to any of the known species of *Cnemaspis* and as such is described herein as new.

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