



A new species of the genus *Oligodon* Fitzinger, 1826 (Squamata: Colubridae) from southern Vietnam and Cambodia

PATRICK DAVID¹, GERNOT VOGEL² & OLIVIER S. G. PAUWELS³

¹Département Systématique et Évolution, USM 602 Taxonomie-collection – Reptiles & Amphibiens, Case Postale 30, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 57 rue Cuvier, F-75231 Paris Cedex 05, France. E-mail: pdavid@mnhn.fr

²Society for Southeast Asian Herpetology, Im Sand 3, D-69115 Heidelberg, Germany. E-mail: Gernot.Vogel@t-online.de

³Département des Vertébrés Récents, Institut Royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique, Rue Vautier 29, B-1000 Brussels, BELGIUM
E-mail: osgpauwels@yahoo.fr

Abstract

A new species of the *Oligodon cyclurus*-group is described from southern Vietnam and Cambodia, *Oligodon saintgironsi* **spec. nov.** It differs from other members of this group by the combination of 19 scale rows at the neck, 17 or 18 dorsal scale rows at midbody, a long and robust tail, very long and thin hemipenes, and a blotched pattern. It is most similar to *Oligodon ocellatus* (Morice, 1875). *Oligodon analepticos* Campden-Main, 1970 is confirmed as a synonym of *Oligodon ocellatus*. A key to the *Oligodon cyclurus*-group is provided.

Key words: *Oligodon*, *Oligodon saintgironsi* **spec. nov.**, *Oligodon ocellatus*, *Oligodon analepticos*, taxonomy, Vietnam, Cambodia

Introduction

The genus *Oligodon* Fitzinger, 1826, widespread throughout central and tropical Asia, contained 67 species as of August 1st, 2008 (Uetz & Hallermann, 2008) and the description of at least three other taxa is in press (David *et al.*, in press). Smith (1943) and Wagner (1976) recognized several informal groups within the genus, mostly on the basis of hemipenial morphology. In the absence of a phylogeny of the genus, these groups are convenient for discussing the taxonomy of the genus.

Both Smith (1943) and Wagner (1975, 1976) recognized the “*Oligodon cyclurus*-group”, which currently includes *O. cyclurus* (Cantor, 1839), *O. fasciolatus* (Günther, 1864), *O. chinensis* (Günther, 1888), *O. formosanus* (Günther, 1872), and *O. ocellatus* (Morice, 1875). This group is mainly characterized by (1) long and deeply forked hemipenes, neither spinose or papillate, (2) 17–23 dorsal scale rows, (3) 10–12 maxillary teeth, (4) a full complement of head scales, including a loreal and a presubocular, (5) anal plate entire; and (6) a mainly blotched and/or reticulated pattern, never prominently striped (although specimens of *Oligodon cyclurus* from Myanmar and western Thailand may have occasionally a pair of broad paravertebral stripes along with the dorsal blotches). These species are widespread from Myanmar to southern China and to southern Thailand. They are quite large for the genus, *O. fasciolatus* and *O. ocellatus* reaching up to 807 mm and 852 mm respectively (Wagner, 1975; our data).

As for several other groups of *Oligodon*, there has been much confusion concerning the binomen *Oligodon cyclurus*, because Cantor's (1839) description of the species failed to mention either a type specimen or type locality. However, it was obviously based on a specimen collected in Bengal, according to the Bengali vernacular name that he indicated. We follow Wagner (1975) in retaining the specific epithet *cyclurus* for the