



## Two new montane species of *Acanthosaura* Gray, 1831 (Squamata: Agamidae) from Peninsular Malaysia

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### Abstract

Two new montane species of the agamid genus *Acanthosaura* (Gray, 1831) from Peninsular Malaysia are described based on having unique color pattern and scale characteristics. *Acanthosaura bintangensis* **sp. nov.** from Bukit Larut, Perak most closely resembles *A. titiwangsaensis* **sp. nov.** from Fraser's Hill and Cameron Highlands, Pahang but differs from it by having more subdigital lamellae on the fourth finger; the presence of a row of enlarged keeled suborbital scales beginning and terminating with an elliptical keeled scale; by having more scales surrounding the occipital spines; having more spots in the dorsal pattern; and by having a black gular region with a yellow medial stripe. Both species closely resemble *A. crucigera* but, can be separated from it by having higher numbers of subdigital lamellae on the fourth finger and toe; higher numbers of trasverse scales in the canthus rostralis-supraorbital ridge; higher numbers of scales bordering the rostral scale, and lower numbers of scales between the fifth canthals. The discovery of a two new agamid lizards from montane forests in well-known areas of Peninsular Malaysia underscores the importance of continued field work in these regions.

**Key words:** *Acanthosaura*, *crucigera*, *bintangensis*, *titiwangsaensis*, Banjaran Bintang, Banjaran Titiwangsa, Montane, Peninsular Malaysia, description

### Introduction

The montane regions of Peninsular Malaysia harbor a unique array of species. Surveys of these areas within the past six years have resulted in the discovery of a number of new taxa including seven amphibians, seven lizards, and four species of snakes (e.g. Chan & Grismer 2008; Das *et al.* 2004; Das & Yaakob 2003; Grismer *et al.* 2004b, 2008, 2009; Grismer 2006, 2007, 2008; Grismer & Chan 2008; Hallerman & McGuire 2001; Leong & Lim 2003a,b; Lim *et al.* 2002; Matsui & Jaafaar 2006; McLeod & Norhyati 2007; Yaakob & Lim 2002; Sanders *et al.* 2004; Vogel *et al.* 2004; Wood *et al.* 2008). Species of the Southeast Asian agamid genus *Acanthosaura* collectively range from northeastern India east through Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, southern China (including Hainan island) and southward through Peninsular Malaysia (including its off shore islands of Pulau Aur, Pulau Langkawi, Pulau Perhentian Besar, Pulau Perhentian Kecil, Pulau Pinang, and Pulau Tioman) to Sumatra and the Anambas Archipelago (Leong *et al.* 2002; Taylor 1963; Manthey & Grossmann 1997). Within Peninsular Malaysia there are two currently recognized species of *Acanthosaura*; *A. armata* Hardwicke & Gray, 1827 ranging from the northern portion of peninsular Thailand (including Phuket island) south throughout Peninsular Malaysia and some of its offshore islands to Sumatra