



## A third new *Cyrtodactylus* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, Truong Son Range, Vietnam

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### Abstract

We describe a third cryptic species of the genus *Cyrtodactylus* from Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park, Quang Binh Province, Vietnam. *Cyrtodactylus roesleri* **sp. nov.** is distinguished from the remaining Indochinese bent-toed geckos by a combination of the following characters: size small, with a maximum SVL of 75.3 mm; dorsal pattern consisting of dark nuchal band and 4–5 sometimes irregularly shaped dark transversal bands between limbs; ventrals in 34–40 longitudinal rows at midbody; continuous series of 20–28 precloacal and femoral pores in males; subcaudal scales transversally enlarged. It is the 15<sup>th</sup> new reptilian taxon described as new from the karst forests of Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park in the past decade. In addition, it is the 19<sup>th</sup> species of *Cyrtodactylus* known from Vietnam and the third *Cyrtodactylus* occurring in sympatry in the karst forests of Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park.

**Key words:** *Cyrtodactylus roesleri* **sp. nov.**, Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park, Quang Binh Province, Vietnam, morphology, taxonomy

### Introduction

The genus *Cyrtodactylus* forms the most diverse group of gekkonid lizards to date (e.g., Kluge 2001), with the Indochinese Peninsula representing one of the centres of undiscovered species diversity. There has been an enormous increase in the number of new species of the genus *Cyrtodactylus* recently described from Vietnam. The *Cyrtodactylus* species number in that country remarkably increased from three recognized species in 1997 (*C. condorensis*, *C. intermedius*, *C. irregularis*) to 18 species in 2008 (see Ngo & Bauer 2008), namely *C. badenensis*, *C. cattienensis*, *C. caovansungi*, *C. chauquangensis*, *C. cryptus*, *C. eisenmanae*, *C. grismeri*, *C. hontreensis*, *C. huynhi*, *C. nigriocularis*, *C. paradoxus*, *C. phongnhakebangensis*, *C. pseudoquadrivirgatus*, *C. takouensis*, and *C. ziegleri* (Ziegler *et al.* 2002; Heidrich *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). Some of these newly described species even occur in sympatry (Ngo & Bauer 2008) as it is the case for *C. phongnhakebangensis* and *C. cryptus* in central Vietnam's Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park (Ziegler *et al.* 2002; Heidrich *et al.* 2007). This National Park is famous for a series of recent herpetological discoveries: 14 new species of amphibians and reptiles have been described from this karst forest region in the past decade only (see overview in Ziegler & Vu 2009). Nazarov *et al.* (2008) further pointed to a possibly third undescribed, cryptic *Cyrtodactylus* occurring in the Phong Nha – Ke Bang region. This gave reason to more closely study the