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***Cyrtodactylus sanook* (Squamata: Gekkonidae), a new cave-dwelling gecko from Chumphon Province, southern Thailand**

OLIVIER S.G. PAUWELS^{1,5}, MONTRI SUMONTHA², ALICE LATINNE³ & L. LEE GRISMER⁴

¹Département des Vertébrés Récents, Institut Royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique, Rue Vautier 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium. E-mail: osgpauwels@yahoo.fr; www.pauwelsolivier.com

²Ranong Marine Fisheries Station, 157 Saphanpla Rd., Paknam, Muang, Ranong, Thailand. E-mail: montri.sumontha@gmail.com

³Laboratoire de génétique des micro-organismes, Institut de Botanique (B22), University of Liège, 4000 Liège, Belgium.

E-mail: alice.latinne@ulg.ac.be

⁴Department of Biology, La Sierra University, 4500 Riverwalk Parkway, Riverside, California, 92515-8247 USA.

E-mail: lgrismer@lasierra.edu

⁵Corresponding author

Abstract

We describe a new cave-dwelling species, *Cyrtodactylus sanook* **sp. nov.**, from Tham Sanook, Chumphon Province, southern Thailand, characterized by a maximum SVL of 79.5 mm; 18–20 longitudinal rows of dorsal tubercles at midbody; a continuous series of enlarged femoral and precloacal scales, no femoral pores, three or four precloacal pores in males (no pores in females), no precloacal groove nor depression; 19–20 subdigital lamellae on 4th toe; transversally enlarged subcaudal plates; and 6–7 irregular pale narrow dorsal bands between limb insertions. It seems endemic to this cave and is the 7th Thai *Cyrtodactylus* species that is known only from a cave environment.

Key words: *Cyrtodactylus sanook*, Wat Tham Sanook, karst, Peninsular Thailand

Introduction

Pursuing our ongoing taxonomic and zoogeographic review of the herpetofauna of the Thai-Malay Peninsula (see among others Ellis and Pauwels 2012, Grismer *et al.* 2012, Johnson *et al.* 2012 and Sumontha *et al.* 2012 for the most recent updates on local *Cyrtodactylus* species), we investigated many environments susceptible to harboring endemics, with a special emphasis on karst reliefs and caves. A nocturnal excursion in Tham Sanook, a cave situated at ground level within an isolated karst relief surrounded by plantations, secondary forest and human settlements, revealed a *Cyrtodactylus* species that we readily identified as new because it shows a peculiar color pattern and unique diagnostic scale morphology; it is hence described below.

Material and methods

Measurements and meristic counts follow Grismer *et al.* (2012) and Sumontha *et al.* (2012). Paired meristic characters are given left/right. Numbers of supralabials and infralabial scales are counted from the largest scale immediately posterior to the dorsal inflection of the posterior portion of the upper jaw to the rostral and mental scales, respectively. The number of paravertebral tubercles was counted in a straight line immediately left of the vertebral column, between the limb insertions. The number of longitudinal rows of body tubercles was counted transversely across the center of the dorsum from one ventrolateral skin fold to the other. The number of longitudinal rows of ventral scales was counted transversely across the center of the abdomen from one ventrolateral skin fold to the other. The number of the subdigital lamellae beneath the 4th toe was counted from the base of the first phalanx to the claw. The total number of precloacal and femoral pores was combined as a single