Cyrtodactylus thirakhupti (Squamata: Gekkonidae), a new cave-dwelling gecko from southern Thailand

OLIVIER S.G. PAUWELS¹, AARON M. BAUER*², MONTRI SUMONTHA³ & LAWAN CHANHOME⁴

¹ Department of Recent Vertebrates, Institut Royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique, 29 Rue Vautier, B-1000 Brussels, BELGIUM
² Department of Biology, Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, Pennsylvania 19085, USA
³ Ranong Marine Fisheries Station, 157 M. 1, Saphan-Pla Road, Paknam, Muang, Ranong 85000, THAILAND
⁴ Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute, Thai Red Cross Society, 1871 Rama IV Road, Bangkok 10330, THAILAND
*corresponding author

Abstract

A new cave-dwelling species of Cyrtodactylus is described from Khao Sonk in Surat Thani Province, southern peninsular Thailand. The new species is characterized by its slender body (snout-vent length to at least 80 mm) with a banded pattern, elongate tail and digits, low number (14) of rows of dorsal tubercles, absence of precloacal groove, and enlarged series of precloacal and femoral scales, all lacking pores. It is the third species of cave-dwelling Cyrtodactylus recorded from Thailand.

Key words: Thailand, Surat Thani, Reptilia, Gekkonidae, Cyrtodactylus thirakhupti, new species, taxonomy, cave-dwelling

Introduction

The gekkonid genus Cyrtodactylus Gray, 1827 comprises more than 75 species distributed across tropical Asia from India to the Philippines, northeastern Australia, New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands (Rösler 2000, 2001; Das & Lim 2000; Kluge 2001; Wells 2002; Bauer 2002, 2003; Bauer et al. 2002, 2003; Günther & Rösler 2003). New species continue to be discovered throughout the range of the genus, but the greatest rate of discovery has been in Thailand and Myanmar, where three and nine species, respectively, have been...