



## A new species of the genus *Gekko* Laurenti (Squamata: Sauria: Gekkonidae) from Vietnam with remarks on *G. japonicus* (Schlegel)

HERBERT RÖSLER<sup>1</sup>, TRUONG QUANG NGUYEN<sup>2,3</sup>, KIEN VAN DOAN<sup>2</sup>, CUC THU HO<sup>2</sup>,  
TAO THIEN NGUYEN<sup>4</sup> & THOMAS ZIEGLER<sup>5,6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Senckenberg Naturhistorische Sammlungen Dresden, Museum für Tierkunde, Sektion Herpetologie, Königsbrücker Landstr. 159, D-01109 Dresden, Germany. E-mail: herbertroesler@aol.com

<sup>2</sup>Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, 18 Hoang Quoc Viet, Hanoi, Vietnam. E-mail: nqt2@yahoo.com

<sup>3</sup>Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Adenauerallee 160, D-53113 Bonn, Germany

<sup>4</sup>Vietnam National Museum of Nature, 18 Hoang Quoc Viet, Hanoi, Vietnam. E-mail: nguyenthientao@gmail.com

<sup>5</sup>AG Zoologischer Garten Köln, Riehler Straße 173, D-50735 Köln, Germany. E-mail: ziegler@koelnerzoo.de

<sup>6</sup>Corresponding author

### Abstract

We describe a new species of the gekkonid genus *Gekko* from northern Vietnam on the basis of four specimens from Lang Son and Lao Cai provinces. *Gekko canhi* sp. n. is distinguished from the remaining congeners by the combination of the following characters: body size moderate (SVL < 100 mm); supralabials 12–14, infralabials 10–13; nares in contact with rostral, internasal single, nasals 3; interorbitals 47–50; dorsal tubercle rows 10–13; scales between mental and cloacal slit 205–229; midbody scales 164–170; subdigital lamellae below first toe 13–16, below fourth toe 14–17; extensive webbing between fingers and toes minimal; tibial tubercles present; precloacal pores 5; postcloacal tubercles 2–3; tail round, not thickened at base; caudal tubercles present; subcaudals enlarged. We also provide new information on the taxonomy and distribution of *G. japonicus* in Vietnam.

**Key words:** Squamata, Gekkonidae, *Gekko canhi* sp. n., *G. japonicus*, taxonomy, Vietnam

### Introduction

In their updated review of the herpetofauna of Vietnam, Nguyen *et al.* (2009) list eight species of the genus *Gekko* that occur in Vietnam: *Gekko badenii* Szczerbak & Nekrasova; *G. chinensis* Gray; *G. gekko* (Linnaeus); *G. grossmanni* Günther; *G. japonicus* (Schlegel in Dumeril & Bibron); *G. palmatus* Boulenger; *G. scientiadventura* Rösler, Ziegler, Vu, Herrmann & Böhme; and *G. ulikovskii* Darevsky & Orlov. However, the occurrence of *G. chinensis* and *G. japonicus* in Vietnam has been questioned (Ota *et al.* 1995), and *G. ulikovskii* recently has been treated as synonym of *G. badenii* (Nguyen *et al.* in press). Most recently, a new *Gekko* species was added to Vietnam's herpetofauna: *G. russelltraini* Ngo, Bauer, Wood & Grismer from the south of the country (Ngo *et al.* 2009). Here, we describe an additional new *Gekko* species that has been collected from Sa Pa and Huu Lien in northern Vietnam. From the latter site, another gecko species, *Goniurosaurus huuliensis*, has been described recently (Orlov *et al.* 2008).

### Material and methods

Besides the type series of the new species we examined the following six specimens (2 males, 4 females) of *G. japonicus*: ZSM 210/1907/1–210/1907/5 from “Pingshiang, Kiangsi” Province (= Jiangxi Sheng), China; ZSM 8/1959 from Tonnabashi, Japan.