



Cyrtodactylus auribalteatus (Squamata: Gekkonidae), a new cave-dwelling gecko from Phitsanulok Province, Thailand

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Abstract

A new cave-dwelling species of the gekkonid lizard genus *Cyrtodactylus* Gray, *C. auribalteatus* sp. nov. is described on the basis of animals collected from a cave in Thung Salaeng Luang National Park, Phitsanulok Province, Thailand, bringing the number of species in this genus in Thailand to 18. The new species shares over all appearances with other cave-dwelling *Cyrtodactylus* spp. in having large eyes, a long snout, reduced tubercles, absence of caudal tubercles, and slender limbs for climbing. The new species is characterized by its moderate size (snout-vent length to at least 98.07 mm), weakly conical tubercles in 22–24 rows at midbody, high number of ventral scale across midbody (38–40), absence of precloacal groove, present of a single series of 6 precloacal pores and 4–5 femoral pores on each thigh separated by a diastema, broad subcaudal plates, and its dorsal pattern of three dark bands between limb insertions. It is the seventh species of cave-dwelling *Cyrtodactylus*, including the sandstone cave species, *C. jarujini*, recorded from Thailand.

Key words: *Cyrtodactylus auribalteatus*, Gekkonidae, description, Thailand, cave-dwelling, karst, limestone

Introduction

The gekkonid genus *Cyrtodactylus* Gray includes at least 115 species, which makes it one of the most species rich genera in the family. These medium-sized geckos are nocturnal and mostly live in undisturbed areas, making them very difficult to study, thus their occurrence and biology are poorly documented. Since 2000, many new species have been discovered, especially in Southeast Asian countries, namely Laos (David *et al.* 2004), Malaysia (Das & Lim 2000; Grismer 2005; Grismer & Ahmad 2008; Grismer & Leong 2005; Grismer *et al.* 2008; Rösler & Glaw 2008; Youmans & Grismer 2006), Myanmar (Bauer 2002; 2003), and Vietnam (Heidrich *et al.* 2007; Geissler *et al.* 2009; Nazarov *et al.* 2008; Ngo 2008; Ngo & Bauer 2008; Ngo *et al.* 2008; Nguyen *et al.* 2006; Orlov *et al.* 2007; Quang *et al.* 2007; Rösler *et al.* 2007, 2008; Ziegler *et al.* 2003).

In Thailand, Bauer *et al.* (2002) recognized 12 species of *Cyrtodactylus* spp.: *C. angularis* (Smith), *C. brevipalmatus* (Smith), *C. consobrinus* (Peters), *C. interdigitalis* Ulber, *C. intermedius* (Smith), *C. jarujini* Ulber, *C. oldhami* (Theobald), *C. papilionoides* Ulber & Grossmann, *C. peguensis* (Boulenger), *C. pulchellus* Gray, *C. quadrivirgatus* Taylor, *C. variegatus* (Blyth), and described a new species, *C. sumonthai* Bauer *et al.* Since then, four more species have been discovered and described: *C. tigroides* Bauer *et al.*, *C. chanhomeae* Bauer *et al.*, *C. thirakhupti* Pauwels *et al.*, and *C. erythropros* Bauer *et al.*, bringing the total of the known species in Thailand to 17. Four of the recently described species (*C. sumonthai*, *C. chanhomeae*, *C. tigroides*, *C. thirakhupti*) are karst and limestone cave dwelling species, and *C. jarujini* also occurs in sandstone cave habitats in northeastern Thailand (Sumontha *et al.* 2008).