



## A new poreless species of *Gekko Laurenti, 1768* (Gekkonidae: Squamata) from An Giang Province, southern Vietnam

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### Abstract

A new poreless gecko, *Gekko vietnamensis* **sp. nov.**, is described from an isolated hill in southern Vietnam. The new species is characterized by a medium size (SVL up to 91 mm); rostral touching nostril; 11–12 supralabials, 10–11 infralabials; body slender with four unclear transverse bands on the back and 28–30 scales across mid-belly; lack of precloacal and femoral pores, no enlarged femoral scales; 18–20 undivided transverse lamellae under the fourth toe; digits free; and tail longer than snout-vent length with enlarged undivided transverse subcaudal scales.

**Key words:** Gekkonidae, *Gekko vietnamensis* **sp. nov.**, morphology, Vietnam

### Introduction

The genus *Gekko* Laurenti, 1768 with about 40 species is common inhabitant of plains and plateaus across temperate and tropical Asia and tropical Australian region (Smith 1935, Zhou & Wang 2008, Ngo *et al.* 2009). Within Vietnam, ten species have been recognized, including *G. badenii* Szczerbak & Nekrasova from the south, *G. canhi* Rösler, Nguyen, Doan, Ho, Nguyen & Ziegler from the north, *G. chinensis* Gray from the north, *G. gekko* (Linnaeus) throughout the country, *G. grossmanni* Günther from the centre, *G. palmatus* Boulenger from the north, *G. russelltraini* Ngo, Bauer, Wood & Grismer from the south, *G. scientiaventura* Rösler, Ziegler, Vu, Herrmann & Bohme from the centre, *G. takouensis* Ngo & Gamble from the centre, and *G. ulikovskii* Darevsky & Orlov from central Vietnam (Ngo & Gamble 2010, Nguyen *et al.* 2009, Bobrov & Semenov 2008, Ngo *et al.* 2009, Rösler *et al.* 2004, Günther 1994, Darevsky & Orlov 1994). However, the status of *G. badenii* and *G. ulikovskii* requires further confirmation (Nguyen *et al.* 2009).

Recent herpetological field research in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam in August, 2008 led to the discovery of a poreless gecko belonging to the genus *Gekko*. This species from An Giang Province, southern Vietnam differs from all congeners and is herein described as new.

### Material and methods

Eight specimens of the new species were collected on Tuc Dup Mountain, An Giang Province, Vietnam in August, 2008. All voucher specimens are deposited at the Institute of Tropical Biology Collection of Zoology (ITBCZ), Hochiminh City, Vietnam.

The following pholidosis characters were used: **CaS**, cloacal spur on each side of tail base; **FP**, femoral pores; **IFL**, infralabials; **IntOrb**, number of interorbital scale rows; **PP**, precloacal pores; **SB**, scales across the belly in the middle of the body, between two lateral folds; **SC**, subcaudal scales; **SDL IV**, subdigital lamellae below fourth toe; and **SPL**, supralabials. The following measurements were taken with digital caliper