



Gekko canaensis sp. nov. (Squamata: Gekkonidae), a new gecko from Southern Vietnam

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Abstract

A new species of *Gekko* Laurenti 1768 is described from southern Vietnam. The species is distinguished from its congeners by its moderate size: SVL to maximum 108.5 mm, dorsal pattern of five to seven white vertebral blotches between nape and sacrum and six to seven pairs of short white bars on flanks between limb insertions, 1–4 internasals, 30–32 ventral scale rows between weak ventrolateral folds, 14–18 preloacal pores in males, 10–14 longitudinal rows of smooth dorsal tubercles, 14–16 broad lamellae beneath digit I of pes, 17–19 broad lamellae beneath digit IV of pes, and a single transverse row of enlarged tubercles along the posterior portion of dorsum of each tail segment.

Key words: Cà Ná Cape, description, *Gekko*, *Gekko canaensis* sp. nov., Gekkonidae, granitic outcrop, Vietnam

Introduction

Members of the *Gekko petricolus* Taylor 1962 species group (*sensu* Panitvong *et al.* 2010) are rock-dwelling specialists occurring in southeastern Indochina. The group as currently described consists of eight described species: *Gekko badenii* Szczerbak & Nekrasova 1994; *Gekko grossmanni* Günther 1994; *Gekko lauhachindai* Panitvong *et al.* 2010; *Gekko petricolus* Taylor 1962; *Gekko russelltraini* Ngo *et al.* 2009; *Gekko scientiadventura* Rösler *et al.* 2005; *Gekko takouensis* Ngo & Gamble 2010; and *Gekko vietnamensis* Nguyen 2010. Here we report a new species of large-bodied gecko in the *Gekko petricolus* species group from Cà Ná Cape, an isolated mountain in southern Vietnam.

Material and methods

Field surveys were conducted in May 2006 and June 2010. Voucher specimens were collected by hand during the night. Geographic coordinates and elevation were recorded using a Garmin III GPS. Photographs were taken using a Panasonic DMC-FZ30 digital camera and Sony DCR-TRV22. Specimens were euthanized with tricaine methanesulfonate (MS-222) following Conroy *et al.* (2009), fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin, rinsed under water and stored in 75% ethanol. Liver samples for use in subsequent DNA sequencing were collected and stored in 95% ethanol and kept in cool conditions. All type specimens are deposited in the Zoological Collection of the University of Natural Sciences (UNS) in Hochiminh City, Vietnam.

The following measurements were taken with a digital caliper following the methods of Bauer (2002, 2003): snout–vent length (SVL); tail length (TailL); head depth (HeadD); head length (HeadL); head width (HeadW); snout to eye distance (SnEye); nare to eye distance (NarEye); orbital diameter (OrbD); ear length (EarL); eye to ear distance (EyeEar); internarial distance (Internar); interorbital distance (shortest distance between left and right superciliary scale rows) (Interorb); trunk length (TrunkL); crus length (CrusL); forearm length (ForeaL). Values