



## A new endemic species of *Cyrtodactylus* Gray (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Tho Chu Island, southwestern Vietnam.

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### Abstract

A new endemic species, *Cyrtodactylus thochuensis* sp. nov. from Tho Chu Island in Kien Giang Biosphere Reserve off the southern coast of Vietnam, is differentiated from all other species of *Cyrtodactylus* by the following combination of characters: maximum SVL 86.3 mm (n=6); no preloacal groove; 3–5 preloacal pores arranged in an angular series; a series of enlarged femoral scales contacting a wide patch of enlarged preloacal scales; 3–6 intersupranasals in contact with rostral; 20–26 strongly keeled, longitudinal rows of tubercles at midbody; and 30–40 transverse rows of ventral scales between the ventrolateral folds. This species most closely resembles *C. condorensis* Smith and *C. paradoxus* (Darevsky & Szczerbak).

**Key words:** New insular species, Indochina, systematics, Squamata

### Introduction

The gekkonid fauna of Vietnam is diverse and rapidly being added to with 33 new species having been discovered within the last nine years: five species of *Cnemaspis* (Grismer & Ngo 2007; Grismer *et al.* 2010); 23 species of *Cyrtodactylus* (Ziegler *et al.* 2002, 2010; Rösler *et al.* 2005; Nguyen *et al.* 2006; Heidrich *et al.* 2007; Hoang *et al.* 2007; Orlov *et al.* 2007; Nazarov *et al.* 2008; Ngo 2008, 2011; Ngo & Bauer 2008; Ngo & Grismer 2010; Ngo & Chan 2010, 2011; Ngo *et al.* 2008, 2009, 2010; Rösler *et al.* 2008; Geissler *et al.* 2009); two species of *Dixonius* (Das 2004; Ngo & Ziegler 2009); and six species of *Gekko* (Ngo *et al.* 2009; Ngo & Gamble 2010, 2011; Nguyen 2010; Rösler *et al.* 2010; Phung & Ziegler 2011). Furthermore, Rösler *et al.* (2011) recently revalidated *Gekko reveesii* Gray, from southern China and northern Vietnam.

The Tho Chu archipelago consists of many small offshore islands in the Gulf of Thailand in southwestern Vietnam. Tho Chu is the largest island and it lies approximately 70 km in straight line from Phu Quoc Island (Fig. 5). Darevsky (1990) reported 12 species of reptiles from this island (Cu Lao Panjang Island) including only one gekkonid species, *Lepidodactylus lugubris* (Duméril & Bibron). Our field surveys conducted on Tho Chu Island during July 2008 and August 2009 resulted in the addition of three species of anurans, one lizard and one snake (Grismer *et al.* 2011). The additional lizards included nine specimens of an undescribed species of *Cyrtodactylus*. A combination of characters differentiates this population from all known taxa in this genus and thus we describe it here as a new species.

### Material and methods

Locality data were taken using a Garmin III GPS. Digital photographs were taken with LINUX FZ50 digital camera. All voucher specimens were euthanized, preserved with 10% formalin after collecting tissue samples of liver. Specimens were then rinsed in water for several hours and transferred to 70% ethanol for storage. Voucher speci-